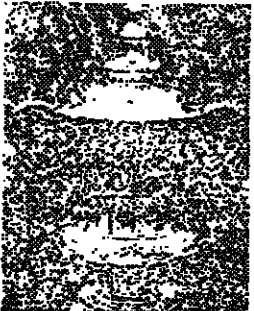


THE TIMES Tomorrow

Hot line
Suzy Menkes reports from Paris on the latest fashions

Killer line
Part 2 of the prison camp diaries from the Burma railway

Goal line



Crossed line
Electricity versus gas; should two State industries be rude to each other in their TV advertising?

New line
Jonathan Davis, financial correspondent, opens his Whitehall notebook

First view of £400m river 'city'

Models of the £400m London Bridge City on the south bank of the Thames will be unveiled for the press today, but no public showing is planned. Built with Kuwaiti money, it will be the capital's largest postwar property development. **Page 4**

Sikh terror

Sikhs have launched a terror campaign, indiscriminately bombing Hindus in India. In separate incidents at the weekend at least eight were killed in grenade blasts. **Page 5**

Schools attack

The London Borough of Sutton, which retains grammar schools, has been accused by school inspectors of not doing enough for the most and least able children. **Page 3**

EEC warned

The Prime Ministers of Spain and Portugal gave warning in Athens that unless their countries are brought into EEC membership by 1986 they would have to seek alternatives. **Greece honoured, page 8**

Reagan's choice

Mr Robert McFarlane is to become US National Security Adviser in succession to Mr William Clark. White House officials revealed. The decision is expected to be announced formally today.

Weekend jail

The Home Office is studying the feasibility of weekend imprisonment to help offenders to keep their jobs and to cut jail overcrowding. **Page 2**

Hongkong hope

The Hongkong Government's decision to peg the Hongkong dollar to the US currency is expected to help restore stability to the colony. China approved of the move. **Page 19**

McEnroe ban

John McEnroe, the Wimbledon champion, has been suspended for 21 days after abusing an official at the Australian indoor tennis championships in Sydney. **Page 22**

Leader page 13
Letters: On a nuclear "freeze", from Sir Rudolf Peters, FRS, and others; administration, from Mr Nevill Johnson; British Library, from Dr Peter Partner. **Leading articles:** Peace protesters; China; Mr Tebbit's move.

Features, pages 10-12
Cuts: The developing resistance within the NHS; Bernard Levin on politicians and public standards; how to survive playground peace; Spectrum: The Burma Railway Diaries. **Modern times on fast foods.** Computer Horizons charts the success of Octopus, goes travelling with a word processor and calls in the mavericks. Plus the new competition winners. **Obituary, page 14**
Mr Desmond Doherty, Herr Willi Ritschard. **Special Report, pages 16, 17**
Cleveland, the north-east county.

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Thatcher's key role on Parkinson marriage

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister played a key role in persuading Mr Cecil Parkinson not to marry Miss Sara Keays but to stay with his wife, in the hope of keeping him as a highly-valued member of her Cabinet.

Mrs Thatcher's views on divorce are particularly strong and when Mr Parkinson first told her on June 9 of his secretary's pregnancy and his view that he would have to marry her, it is understood that the Prime Minister advised caution and further consideration.

It is also understood that Mr Ian Gow, then the Prime Minister's parliamentary private secretary and a friend of Mr Parkinson, became active in reinforcing that strong and influential advice.

Mr Gow, a highly-experienced solicitor who has since been made Minister of Housing, is said by some informed sources to have played the role of link man, working behind the scenes to ensure that Mr Parkinson's marriage and career were protected from the impending scandal. Those efforts failed to keep Mr Parkinson in the Cabinet, but he announced yesterday that he planned to continue as MP for Hereford.

Mrs Thatcher's positive stand during June, July and August and Mrs Parkinson's decision to stand by her husband explain the change of mind and the secret September 1 meeting when Miss Keays was told by Mr Parkinson that he was not going to marry her "after all".

It also explains why the Prime Minister so defiantly refused the resignation of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry once the scandal broke.

Ministers have undoubtedly been dismayed by the intense media pressure on Mr Parkinson during last week's party conference. But they have been even more dismayed by Miss Keays's refusal to remain silent in the face of their attempts to save his career.

Those attempts explain the reports, which first emerged at Blackpool last week, that the baby had not been conceived "in a long-standing, loving relationship".

It has been stated on Mr Parkinson's part that the relationship began to peter out as far back as 1980, the year after Mr Parkinson first asked Miss Keays to marry him.

Some of the bitterness felt by Mr Parkinson's friends was made public yesterday by Mr Norman Tebbit, who said in an interview on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World*: "You will recall that an agreement was made, and it was published, between Mr Parkinson and Miss Keays that they would neither of them comment any further upon the matter."

Mr Brian Walden interjected: "But they did, didn't they?" Mr Tebbit said: "They did indeed. Now had that agreement been adhered to, I think we would have been in a slightly different position."

"Politics is dangerous and sometimes you have to take risks if you want to do what is right, and I think it would have been right for Cecil Parkinson to have been in the Cabinet today. I wish he were."

"Not only for reasons of personal friendship but because of his ability and because I think it is a tragedy when what I regard predominantly as pygmies can bring down a man like Cecil Parkinson."

Mr Tebbit also said: "I think it does damage the Government, temporarily, yes."

Mr Parkinson spoke briefly to reporters yesterday when he and his wife and daughters took their spate of Oliver for a walk. **Continued on back page, col 2**

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Smiling through: Mr and Mrs Parkinson outside their home yesterday. Photograph: Chris Harris.

Tebbit takes over Trade, King and Ridley move up

By Our Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday appointed Mr Norman Tebbit as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in succession to Mr Cecil Parkinson, who resigned on Friday.

Mr Tebbit has been replaced as the Secretary of State for Employment by Mr Tom King. Mr King's position as Secretary of State for Transport has been assigned to Mr Nicholas Ridley, who was Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr Tebbit has achieved a remarkable reputation as the most outspoken and most agile Conservative hawk during his two years at Employment. His new post will be seen as a promotion in terms of political bite as well as departmental responsibility.

He lost little time in setting out his hard-hitting views yesterday.

Within hours of receiving Mrs Thatcher's telephone call from Chequers, and before the 5 pm official announcement

from No 10, he appeared on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* for an interview in which he said that in the Cabinet contest between tax and public spending cuts he sided with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in going for lower taxes.

He also criticized Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, for his handling of the manpower cuts in the National Health Service.

Mr Ridley, who joins the Cabinet for the first time, has a monetarist background which stretches back to his days as a junior minister in the Heath administration and before.

Both Mr Tebbit and Mr Ridley will take a strong line on privatization and Mr Tebbit might well extend his review of his new department to re-examine the state of play on regional aid, the subject of bilateral spending talks with the Treasury and trade protection.

Mr Tebbit said last night: "I am just sad that this particular job should have become vacant in the way it has."

But earlier, in his television interview, he spoke of the 1981 Cabinet changes which had helped to reverse government fortunes. "What changed that was a relatively small Cabinet shuffle that brought a Cabinet together that spoke together, was clear, that was united."

He said that the public did not want "a bunch of people

Continued on page 2, col 4



Mr Tebbit (left) takes over Trade, Mr King (centre) moves to Employment and Mr Ridley heads Transport.

Actors vote to continue TV dispute

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

Members of Equity, the actors' union, yesterday decisively rejected proposals from their leadership which could have formed the basis for a settlement in the 18-month-long dispute over commercials on Channel 4 and TV-am.

A meeting of about 200 members voted 6-1 against the Equity council's recommendation to accept an independent working party to work out details of the settlement in their dispute with the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA) over repeat fees for television advertisements shown again on TV-am or Channel 4.

Mr Peter Plouviez, general secretary of Equity, said after the meeting: "This protracted dispute has led to increased distrust of the IPA."

The meeting was called to discuss the Council's counter-proposals after the IPA's latest offer last month.

Israelis attacked at Muslim festival

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Israel's attempts to make allies among the Shia Muslim population of southern Lebanon suffered a severe setback yesterday when Israeli troops opened fire amid a huge Muslim religious festival in the southern Lebanese town of Nabatiya.

The Israelis, who said they had come under fire, wounded seven people - three of whom were last night reported to be in serious condition - while local medical authorities said that five Israelis had been injured.

One of them stabbed with a Muslim ceremonial dagger. Thousands of men, women and children turned on the Israelis after they tried to drive a convoy through a column of young men celebrating the Feast of Ashura, hurling stones, rocks and pieces of wood at Army lorries then overturning and setting fire to two Israeli jeeps.

Ashura is one of the holiest days in the Shia Muslim calendar, celebrating the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson Hussein at the seventh century battle of Kerbala. The festival crowds are usually agitated - indeed, frenzied - and the smallest incident yesterday would probably have been enough to start violence.

According to local reporters, up to ten thousand Shia Muslims had gathered near the Husseiniyah mosque in Nabatiya for the traditional and bloody ceremonies, cutting open their heads with razors and chains in memory of the slaughtered Imam.

Hundreds of people ran through the side streets of the town - which lies deep in Israeli-occupied territory - as bursts of automatic gunfire were heard.

Israel's was not the only army to feel Shia Muslim wrath at the weekend. On Saturday, American Marines came under sniper fire from the Shia suburb of Haya Selmur for the second consecutive day. They were unharmful but later claimed to have shot dead five gunmen.

Arider succession, page 6

Genscher fails with Gromyko on arms

From Michael Binayon, Vienna

After 11 hours of talks here Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart, made no progress in bringing any closer the Soviet and Western positions at the Geneva Arms talks.

Herr Genscher said afterwards "the Russians had continued to insist that the West should not go ahead with deployment of new Nato missiles, and that the British and French missiles should be included in the Geneva talks".

He said he thought the Soviet leadership was still debating whether to break off the talks altogether if deployment went ahead.

Herr Genscher insisted that his talks here had not been intended as a substitute for direct negotiations between the Americans and the Russians, and he had given a warning that hopes for a last-minute breakthrough were misplaced.

However, it was clear that the talks had been extremely tough, and that the Russians had brusquely rejected all the arguments Herr Genscher put forward for a reconsideration of the latest American proposals.

He flew back to Bonn yesterday to brief Western ambassadors on the talks. Tomorrow Herr Friedrich Ruge, the German disarmament expert, will fly to Washington.

Despite the tough talk, which both sides clearly hoped would influence public opinion in the West, and especially in West Germany, both men, who were meeting for the fourth time this year, emphasized that the Bonn-Moscow dialogue should not be broken off. Next week German foreign ministry officials will go to Moscow to discuss long-term plans for cooperation.

Washington: The first 27 Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles are packed and ready to be deployed at sites in Britain and West Germany at the end of this year, according to US officials. (Nicholas Ashford writes)

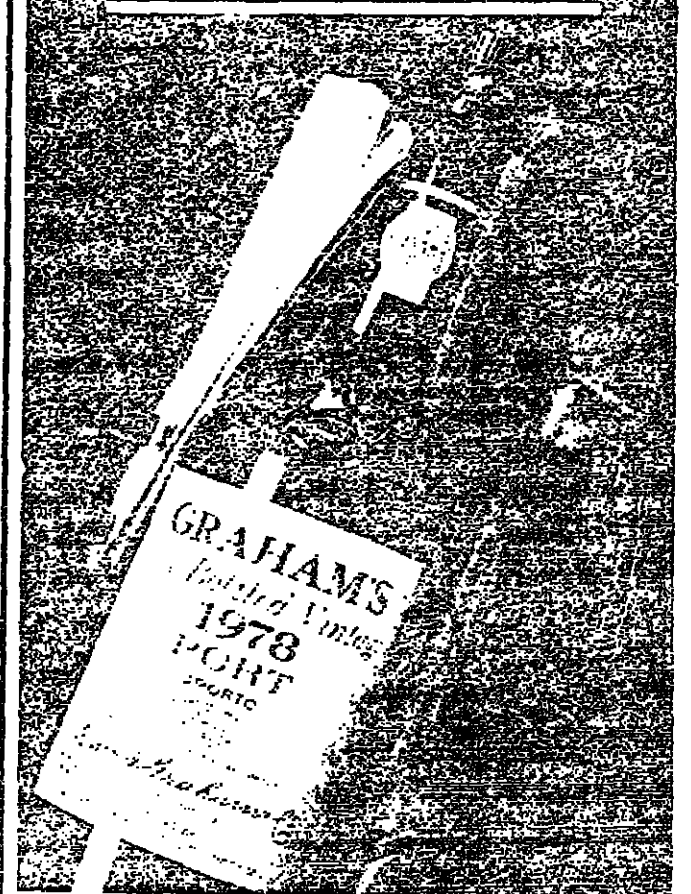
The missiles will be transported to Western Europe during the next few weeks, but they will not be made operational until after a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in mid-December. Sixteen of the missiles are cruises to be deployed at Greenham Common and the other nine are Pershing 2s which will be based at a US army facility at Schweinfurt-Gmund in West Germany. A further 16 cruises will be deployed at Comiso, Sicily, next March.

The initial cruise deployment at Greenham Common will consist of four mobile missile launchers equipped with four missiles each.

Soviet-UK thaw? page 5

Leading article, page 11

The Importance of being Graham's



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Weekend prison planned to help offenders keep jobs

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Plans to introduce part-time imprisonment are being considered as part of the Government's strategy to cut jail overcrowding.

The Home Office is to publish a consultative paper on the proposal, which is backed by magistrates and the parliamentary party penal affairs group. If it is practicable, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, would welcome its introduction.

Two main proposals are being discussed. One is weekend imprisonment from Saturday morning to Sunday night, perhaps with offenders being taken by coach to converted camps or other accommodation. The appeal of weekend imprisonment is that it would enable offenders to stay in their jobs and keep their families together.

The other proposal is for imprisonment during weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm, particularly for unemployed offenders. The drawback of keeping offenders in overnight is that the cost would go up. Disused schools and hospitals are among accommodation considered for part-time imprisonment during the week.

Speakers at the annual conference of the National Association of Probation Officers in Southampton at the weekend made clear that much distaste remains for tasks which smack of punitive control. The prison service is also overstretched and hard pressed to keep jails running.

To make part-time prisons the Home Office is considering the recruitment of special staff, such as retired police officers or school teachers. Police officers have shown themselves adept at running Saturday attendance centres.

The inability of the prison service to take on the running of part-time jails is strengthening an argument for local management. The parliamentary group has recommended that a system of "day detention" should be developed whereby suitable offenders would be required to attend day detention centres for up to eight hours on a set number of days within a six-month period.

The group also recommends that the Home Office should consider the most practicable way in which weekend or partial imprisonment might be developed.

One question to be studied is how punitive the new penalties should be. The parliamentary group says that the purpose of day detention would not be primarily reformatory. But it might include work, crafts, help to the community and education.

Concern about increasing tension in prisons as a result of the new tougher policy announced by Mr Brittan at the Conservative Party conference last week was graphically expressed by Mr Ray Wyre, a probation officer working in Albany high-security prison on the Isle of Wight.

He told the conference of the National Association of Probation Officers: "On Wednesday on returning to my wing in prison, out of all the men who the day before could have been considered for parole, over 70 per cent are not now eligible." Yet they and their families had looked forward to the possibility of early release.

"Take away hope from these men, increase their feelings of injustice and the only way you will deal with them is by exacting extra control and possibly by changing the dispersal (top security) system into one of long-term control units."

Professor Nigel Walker, Wollson professor of criminology at Cambridge University and president of the association, also referred to Mr Brittan's tougher policy.

The way he intended to refuse licence to certain murderers would in practice mean a 20-year minimum, Professor Walker said. Under previous home secretaries there had been life prisoners detained for longer than that. He told the conference: "But what is new, and is not a good idea, for all sorts of reasons, is a blanket of denial of parole for this kind of offender which Parliament has little, if any control."

Home Office officials are giving consideration to moves at the conference to limit periods spent on remand in England and Wales. Mr Gerry Birmingham, a Sheffield solicitor and Labour MP for St Helens South, is seeking to introduce a Bill under the 10-minute rule in the next parliamentary session to ensure that crown court trials begin within 110 days, and summary trials within 40 days, of a person's remand in custody.

Peak District search for 13 bodies denied

By Arthur Osman

Derbyshire and Greater Manchester police denied yesterday that they were searching for 13 bodies in the Goyt Valley of the Peak District as had been claimed in the northern edition of the *Sunday Mirror*.

Four men aged between 19 and 35 from the south Manchester area appeared before justices at Buxton, Derbyshire, on Saturday charged with the murder of two youths aged 16 and 19. Their bodies had been found last week in a Peak District beauty spot.

Detective Superintendent Duncan Bailey, of Derbyshire police, said in Buxton yesterday that at present no further searches were being made in his police area other than those which were an essential part of the inquiries into the murder of the two youths.

Any search that was taking place in an area, about 12 miles from Stockport, did not involve a search for other bodies.



Delivery day: Some of the headlines may not have been to the Prime Minister's liking, but the occasion was good-humoured enough when 189 local and regional newspapers were delivered to 10 Downing Street yesterday. Each was delivered by a different news boy or girl to mark the start of Local Newspaper Week, a sales promotion by the local and regional press and newsagents' organizations. (Photograph: John Voos).

Men in the news

King: wait in the wings rewarded

By Richard Evans

Mr Tom King, who was yesterday appointed Secretary of State for Employment, was the obvious person for the Prime Minister to call upon in her hour of need to fill one of the Government's most sensitive posts.

When he was appointed Secretary for Transport after Mrs Thatcher's overwhelming general election victory in June, some regarded this as a demotion following his short period in charge of the Department of Environment in the last Parliament.

But the Prime Minister made it clear that she was only waiting for the right moment to promote the softly-spoken MP for Bridgwater to greater things.

Last night's announcement is the latest step in an impressive political career which started just 13 years ago.

Within months of arriving at Westminster he was parliamentary private secretary to Mr Christopher Chataway, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. After the fall of the Heath government he became an Opposition spokesman on industry.

He has tended to avoid the headlines, but his big breakthrough came in 1976, when Mrs Thatcher recast her Shadow Cabinet with Mr King as chief spokesman on energy.

After the Conservative election victory in 1979 he was considered unlucky by some not to receive a Cabinet appointment. Instead he worked as number two to Mr Michael Heseltine before taking over his job towards the end of the last Parliament.

Although outwardly he gives the impression of a rather earnest, perhaps colourless politician, colleagues point to a sharp sense of humour. As he pursues the trade union reforms outlined by his predecessor, humour may prove an invaluable asset.

Tebbit: Union curbs well on the way

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Mr Norman Tebbit, the newly appointed Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, leaves the Department of Employment with the third critical stage of the Government's programme of trade union reforms about to be laid before the House of Commons and union hostility towards him starting to moderate.

He has largely succeeded in the task set him by Mrs Margaret Thatcher when he became Secretary of State for Employment almost two years ago of drawing the unions' teeth although he has distastefully peddled in some areas regarded as prime targets for quick government action.

Mr Tebbit, aged 52, went into the Commons in 1970 as MP for Epping and in the 1974 election won the Chingford seat. He quickly became known to the Opposition benches as the "Chingford skinhead".

His forceful debating style also led Mr Michael Foot to dub him "the most audaciously offensive man in the House". Mr Tebbit, a former airline pilot and official of the British Airline Pilots Association, revelled in the Opposition attention.

He became a parliamentary private secretary at the Department of Employment in 1972

Ridley: a loyal Thatcherite

By Richard Evans

The promotion of Mr Nicholas Ridley to Secretary of State for Transport will provide the Prime Minister with another loyal supporter in the forthcoming Cabinet battles over public expenditure.

He is firmly on the right wing of the Conservative Party, a hard-line monetarist, and a long-term opponent of incomes policies.

Mr Ridley, who is 54, left the Heath government in 1972 after disagreements over the reversal of its policy of not helping industrial "lame ducks". He had been Under Secretary of State at the Department of Industry.

After becoming chairman of the Conservative Finance Committee and leading member of the Sealed Group, founded in 1973 to reaffirm Tory faith in free market economics, Mr Ridley was invited back into government by Mrs Thatcher in 1979 as Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Although involved in a controversy over the transfer of Falkland Islands sovereignty to Argentina last year's conflict, his political career took a further step forward in 1981 when his monetarist views brought him the post of Financial Secretary.

Tebbit takes over Trade

Continued from page 1

who dash off in a particular direction without having planned carefully where they are going. That would indeed be not drift but folly and I think therefore one has to prepare public opinion very carefully."

Mr Tebbit also said that he wished that Mr Fowler could have made his conference speech in Blackpool last week on the health service "a couple of weeks back; overwhelmingly so."

He added: "It could have been done better, no doubt. But as always from hindsight now I think that if I had been in Norman's place I would have sought first of all, without raising the temperature of the debate, to persuade health service authorities to behave responsibly. It was the lack of responsibility of some of them which in fact created the problem."

"OK, perhaps we should have foreseen it. Perhaps we should have said 'to hell with the management of the National Health Service, we are going to have to go in there and attack them.'"

Further junior ministerial appointments, including a Treasury successor to Mr Ridley, are expected later this week. It is possible that the new party chairman, Mr John Selwyn Gummer, might be promoted from his job as an Under Secretary at the Department of Employment.

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Churches to lobby against cuts in its share of schools

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Government is expected to be lobbied by the Roman Catholic Church, and probably the Church of England, over its decision to set aside one of the key principles governing the church-state relations of church schools, the so-called "historic share" principle.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, recently announced that he no longer considered himself bound by it, causing consternation in church education circles.

The "historic share" is the fixed percentage of state primary and secondary education that the two churches are allowed. It also determines the percentage of places in teacher training colleges, in the church sector, which amount to about a quarter of all places.

The churches consider the historic share principle was a guarantee that this proportion would not be eroded, and that church schools would not be squeezed out of the system. It was agreed between the churches and the Government when Mrs Margaret Thatcher was Secretary of State for Education.

The abandonment of the principle has already led to the possible closure of one Roman Catholic teacher training college, De La Salle College in Manchester. However, the governors of that college said last week that they will not accept closure without a fight.

Sir Keith, in announcing that his department would withdraw funding for new students at De La Salle College after this year said: "I cannot accept a claimed right to any immutable percentage of public sector training places."

This declaration of policy will be closely scrutinized by the Church of England board of education, whose "historic share" is 16.67 per cent, and by the Roman Catholic bishops' conference of England and Wales, whose "historic share" is 9.3 per cent.

In the latest share-out by the Government, the Church of England percentage remains the same, while the Roman Catholic share drops to 8.5 per cent.

However, both churches are equally threatened by Sir Keith's stated willingness to alter the percentage in the future "to take account of the changing policies of successive governments." The Labour Party, when in government, observed the historic share principle.

The churches see the protection of the church school system as a means of defending it from the impact of changes in the political complexion of governments especially one that might be hostile to church education.

The proportion of teacher training places allotted to the churches determines whether they can maintain a distinctive Christian ethos in their schools. Roman Catholic secondary schools have on average only about two-thirds of their staff who are members of that church, and the fear is that any further reduction would affect the schools' character.

The argument is advanced that a school in the church sector has a distinctive social and ethical basis largely determined by the religious convictions of the staff.

Unions cold shoulder the SDP

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Social Democratic Party has been given a sharp rebuff by the trade union movement in its attempts to capitalize on the loosening of the ties between the unions and the Labour Party.

Left wing activists in the Civil and Public Services Association hope that recent national political developments will help them to secure a "yes" vote. But their optimism is not reflected by seasoned union officials who believe that is little chance of members voting to establish a political fund, which is the legal prerequisite of union affiliation to a political party.

The executive, on which right wingers have a 23-5 majority, has issued a statement calling on members to vote "yes" to the fund, in line with "the union's tradition" but the ruling group has also issued warnings about the dangers of affiliation.

Voting by postal ballot will be completed by October 31 and the result should be known about a week later. Speculation inside the union centres on the scale of the majority against a political fund rather than on the possibility of a "yes" vote.

The CPSA executive is due to meet tomorrow to discuss a dispute over the editorship of *Red Tape*, the union journal. Some of the union's leaders want to suspend publication because the editor, Mr Clive Bush, has refused to agree to consultations on its contents.

Mr Alistair Graham, the general secretary, says some articles published recently would have been offensive to members who vote Conservative.

Union votes Labour link

By Our Labour Correspondent

A political battle inside the largest Civil Service union enters its final stages today as the 208,000 members start voting on whether it should affiliate to the Labour Party.

Left wing activists in the Civil and Public Services Association hope that recent national political developments will help them to secure a "yes" vote. But their optimism is not reflected by seasoned union officials who believe that is little chance of members voting to establish a political fund, which is the legal prerequisite of union affiliation to a political party.

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Guernsey chess festival draws 152 entries

From Harry Golombek, Guernsey

There is a fine entry of 152 players for the Lloyds Bank Ninth Guernsey International Festival of Chess which opened yesterday at Ronnie Ronald's St Martin's Hotel.

In the main event, the open tournament (a seven round Swiss System), the favourite is last year's winner, the international master Jim Fiskett, who has had a fine series of victories this year.

Results: 9th Guernsey C.C. 1st Round: 1-2 (1-2) 3-4 (3-4) 5-6 (5-6) 7-8 (7-8) 9-10 (9-10) 11-12 (11-12) 13-14 (13-14) 15-16 (15-16) 17-18 (17-18) 19-20 (19-20) 21-22 (21-22) 23-24 (23-24) 25-26 (25-26) 27-28 (27-28) 29-30 (29-30) 31-32 (31-32) 33-34 (33-34) 35-36 (35-36) 37-38 (37-38) 39-40 (39-40) 41-42 (41-42) 43-44 (43-44) 45-46 (45-46) 47-48 (47-48) 49-50 (49-50) 51-52 (51-52) 53-54 (53-54) 55-56 (55-56) 57-58 (57-58) 59-60 (59-60) 61-62 (61-62) 63-64 (63-64) 65-66 (65-66) 67-68 (67-68) 69-70 (69-70) 71-72 (71-72) 73-74 (73-74) 75-76 (75-76) 77-78 (77-78) 79-80 (79-80) 81-82 (81-82) 83-84 (83-84) 85-86 (85-86) 87-88 (87-88) 89-90 (89-90) 91-92 (91-92) 93-94 (93-94) 95-96 (95-96) 97-98 (97-98) 99-100 (99-100) 101-102 (101-102) 103-104 (103-104) 105-106 (105-106) 107-108 (107-108) 109-110 (109-110) 111-112 (111-112) 113-114 (113-114) 115-116 (115-116) 117-118 (117-118) 119-120 (119-120) 121-122 (121-122) 123-124 (123-124) 125-126 (125-126) 127-128 (127-128) 129-130 (129-130) 131-132 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Grammar schools 'fail to do enough for town's bright children'

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A council which has retained grammar schools is accused in a report to be published tomorrow of having too narrow a curriculum, spending too little money and not doing enough for the most and least able pupils.

The report, by school inspectors (HMI) also criticizes the Conservative-controlled borough of Sutton, in south London, for not allowing grammar school pupils to sit for CSE examinations.

But the council's leaders in turn strongly criticize the report and condemn the way it was compiled.

Mr David Trafford, leader of

the council, said yesterday that the report was rubbish. "I think the inspectors have produced an abstract, idealistic report that bears no relation to the financial situation and does not place us in the context of all education authorities", he said.

Together with Mrs Mavis Peart, chairman of the education committee, and Mr Charles Melville, director of the education committee, and Mr Charles Melville, director of education, he will be holding a press conference tomorrow to rebut the report.

The council is angry at the way the HMI inquiry has been

conducted. Mr Trafford said Sutton was approached in 1978 and asked if it would cooperate so that HMI could gain experience of inquiries into local authorities. It was told the results would be confidential, Mr Trafford said.

"We are more than a little sore, because we went out of our way to accommodate them," he said. "It has taken an inordinate length of time for them to write it. I understand it has gone through 17 drafts and I hate to think what this cost the taxpayers."

Mr Trafford has already protested to Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, about the report, which, it is understood, took 76 inspectors 460 days to compile.

It does show, however, that Sutton children do well in examinations. Only five per cent leave school without passing an examination, compared with 12 per cent in England and 15 per cent in Greater London. Sixty per cent of school leavers go on to further and higher education, compared with a national average of 40 per cent.

Mr Trafford said the inspectors wanted the authority to broaden the curriculum, but that this could be done only at the expense of examination results. Sutton is one of the lowest spending authorities, with a budget of about £32m.

Grading the old school tie

The "old school tie" system really counts only for former pupils from 33 of Britain's 200 public schools, according to a survey published yesterday.

In a new book, *Network: Who we know and how we use it*, the author Mr Timothy Heald, divides the top 33 schools into two divisions and describes the rest, although members of the Headmasters' Conference, as "minor" as far as prestige and influence are concerned.

Mr Heald says that these 33 schools are particularly high expectations among either pupils or potential employers and competitors.

The top nine are: Ampleforth,

Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow, Marlborough, Rugby, Shrewsbury, Westminster, and Winchester.

The second division of 24 "minor schools" are: Bedford, Broadfield, Bryanston, Cheltenham, Clifton, Downside, Fettes, Gordonstoun, Haileybury, Highbury, Kings' College, Launceston, Malvern, Millfield, Oundle, Repton, St Paul's, Sedburgh, Sherborne, Stonyhurst, Teulington, Uppingham, and Wellington.

The last listing of public schools was contained in the *Cheltenham Commission* of 1961, which also named a first division of nine. The only change during the past 22 years has been the rise of Ampleforth to replace Merchant Taylors.

Britain campaigns to cut EEC air fares

By Our Transport Editor

Mr David Mitchell, the Aviation Minister, is to visit European capitals shortly to seek support for cheaper air fares between Britain and its EEC partners.

The visit marks the start of the fresh drive by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's new team. Aviation was transferred from trade to transport after the June election, towards objectives that largely eluded its predecessors, cheaper fares and more competition on European air routes to bring them more into line with Atlantic fare levels and with the Treaty of Rome.

Eight of the 10 EEC countries (only the Netherlands supports Britain) remain opposed to what they see as US-style deregulation, with the threat of market confusion and possible damage to their collected national airlines.

But with court action pending both from the European Parliament and from Britain's independent campaigner, Lord Bethell, Britain believes the time is ripe for progress at the

meeting in December of the Council of Ministers. The minister's tour is intended to pave the way for that.

Hopes have been raised by a new directive from the EEC in August which gives airlines competition a community dimension by allowing regional airlines to open new services between provincial airports, Newcastle upon Tyne to Lille, for example, as a matter of right under Community law if the fares proposed genuinely cover their own costs.

That means France could no longer veto such a service at the urging of Air France, because its own costs were higher and it feared the competition.

Mr Mitchell said last night: "The new ministers here are anxious to make progress towards liberalization of air services in the EEC. There is a significant discrepancy between fares in Europe and on the Atlantic, and public opinion is expecting us to do something about it."

BBC plans arts channel by satellite

By Bill Johnston

Electronics Correspondent

The BBC, a European concert management group, and Morgan Grenfell, the City merchant bankers, have joined forces to investigate launching a satellite television channel to be beamed across Europe by satellite and cable.

According to the corporation, the idea is for live performances to be relayed from the opera houses, concert halls and theatres of European cities. The service would be financed exclusively by subscribers and would provide several hours of arts programming each day. The venture is to be called the European Music Satellite (EMS).

The corporation states: "The BBC is well aware that attempts to introduce a cultural channel in the United States and Canada have been unsuccessful. However, we believe that not only are there large potential audiences in Europe for this kind of material but also that the essential nature of the service, the ability to watch live performances by the great artists and musicians of Europe will be the real attraction."

The BBC has been surprised by the number of consortia created to provide film sport, news, and light entertainment television channels on low powered satellites for transmission to cable television networks in Europe from the beginning of next year.

The proposed BBC service would use for distribution the same types of satellites as the other cable channels. The service would also allow the corporation to be in at the start of cable expansion in Britain instead of waiting until its own satellite is launched.

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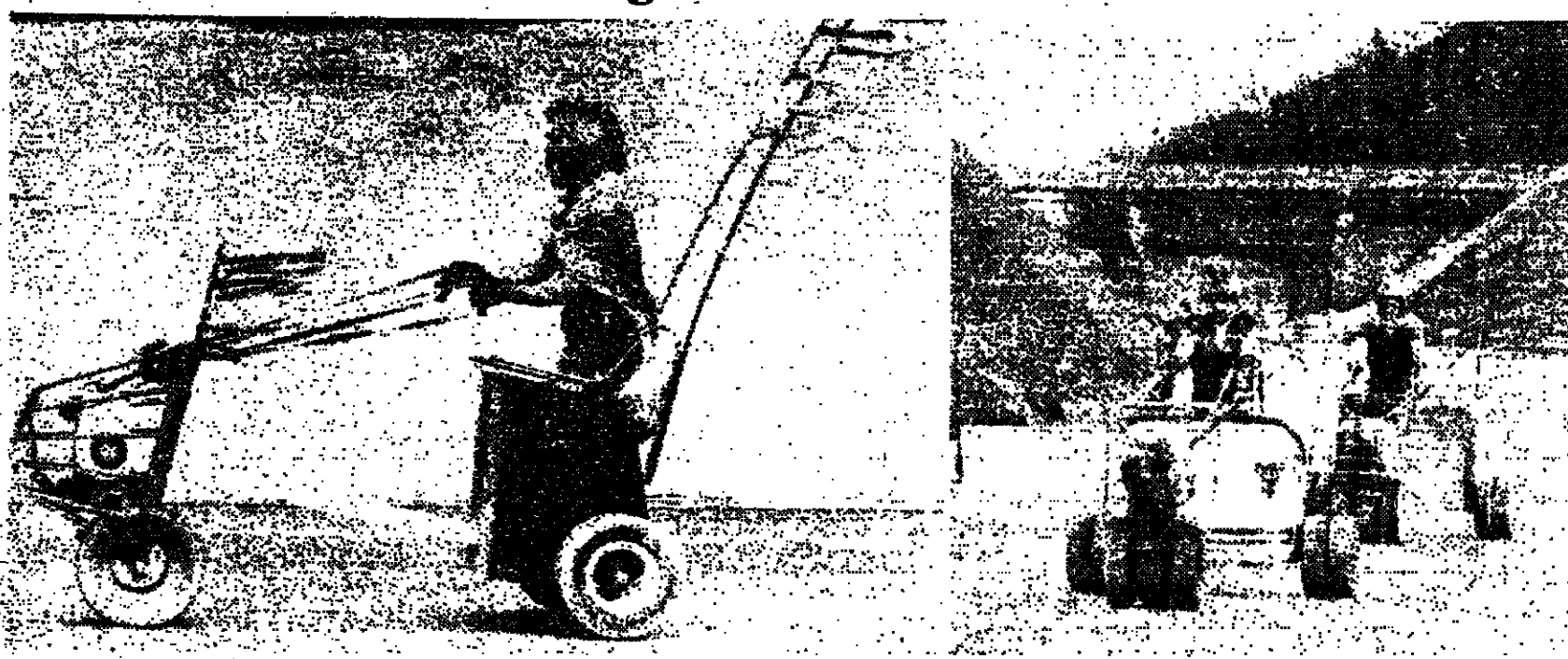
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Chariots bring new diversion to the M25



Ben Hur drove his chariot around an arena watched by a screaming, cheering crowd. Twenty centuries later, the thrill of the charioteers has returned - to the quiet of an unopened motorway.

The chariot has been brought up to date by a pair of inventors from

Epsom, Surrey, who have abandoned four-legged horsepower in favour of that provided by a motor engine.

Mr Arnold Cockle and Mr Stephen Lawson have also made the chariot lighter and stronger; but it is still controlled by reins and they maintain that the modern version

can be used for the same tasks as its Roman predecessor: as civilian transport, war machine and for racing.

To prove the point, Mr Lawson put his "Chariot" through its paces on the M25 at Ashted, Surrey, yesterday.

But there was no need to use the

"fast" lane. The engine, which can be run on a variety of power sources from petrol to steam, offers a maximum speed of about 40 mph.

And for the driver with his feet on the floor and his hands on the reins, that is probably fast enough.

Photographs: Ian Stewart

Ultra-safe coach may go abroad

By Michael Bailey

Transport Editor

At a time of public anxiety about coach safety, a British designed "ultra-safe coach" that could have prevented many recent injuries may go into production in Canada.

The prototype Moulton Coach, developed by Dr Alex Moulton, uses a novel form of body construction that is virtually uncrushable and a unique suspension that makes it almost impossible to turn over. But while British coach operators are spending millions on glossy new continental coaches, British manufacturers have turned the Moulton down and it now looks like going into production in Canada.

After a recent visit by Dr

Moulton, the Canadian Government is prepared to back the project on grounds of coach safety and job generation. It is seeking Canadian manufacturers to build it under its sponsorship.

The coach's main safety features, which seem particularly relevant after recent crashes in Britain and on the continent, are a rigid box body based on the "geodesic construction" of the wartime Wellington bomber that combines great strength with light weight, and an eight-wheel independent suspension on double bogies that gives leech-like road-holding and enables safe swerving. It also has provision for seat-belts which

Dr Moulton considers desirable and inevitable.

He says that when the coach was developed more than a decade ago, it was technically ahead of its time.

"The main preoccupation was on the lowest possible first cost rather than safety. Many coaches still had timber and aluminium bodies. But after recent accidents, attitudes have changed in a sense, time has caught up with this design."

British coach operators are now prepared to spend more than £100,000 on the latest continental coach. Other United Kingdom manufacturers have been approached since, but now, Dr Moulton says, "I have given up in this country."

Creaking TV detector vans to be replaced

From a Correspondent, Birmingham

Television licence evaders have gone largely undetected during the past year as inspectors struggled on with dilapidated vans held together by "string and a prayer", the National TV Licence Records Office said yesterday.

The plight of the service, up to now a well-kept secret, could be revealed because the first of a new fleet of 22 vans, using the latest electronics, is being unveiled in London tomorrow, heralding a new drive to catch an estimated 250,000 licence dodgers who cost the BBC £55m a year.

The old vans, which came

into service in 1968, have been breaking down so often recently that only about six of the 27 vehicles have been on the road at any one time, a spokesman for the records office said.

The spokesman said: "The new vans use microchips to speed up the rate of detection. Even when the old vans are working, the crews have to stop to alter the angle of the aerials. Now everything happens automatically."

The new vans, built in the Freight-Rover van factory in Birmingham, are costing £25,000 each.



When Mazda Cars put their foot down and demanded new offices in 15 months, we left our competitors standing.

As one of the country's leading car importers, Mazda Cars tend to move rather quickly.

So when they decided to build brand new offices, they also decided they'd need to move in as soon as possible.

Because of Mazda's business pressures, the first shovelful of dirt to the last brick had to be achieved in just 15 months.

Finding a builder who could meet this deadline without cutting corners was of primary importance.

We're proud to say we left all our competitors standing and won the contract.

Performance figures of 0-completion in 15 months may not rate too highly in the car industry, but in the construction industry it's very impressive indeed.

Like other clients such as National Westminster Bank, Sainsbury's, and the Dept. of the Environment, Mazda found that Wallis could meet their demands and complete the job both on time and within budget.

And Mazda's architects, Hubbard Ford Partnership, also demanded that the quality of the interior finish and craftsmanship should be second to none.

At Wallis, we employ only the best. The sort of craftsman that can tackle jobs like the refurbishment of parts of the Old Bailey and the restoration of the ceiling to the House of Lords.

To a large extent, it's this range of operations that not only helps us reduce our overall costs to our clients

but also helps us to complete all our jobs as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Within the Wallis Group, we have main construction divisions but more even significantly our own "in-house" Service Divisions for manufactured joinery, electrical installations, decorating, and special works as well as pre-cast concrete and reconstructed stone products.

So while other builders look to expensive (and not always reliable) sub-contractors for specialist jobs like Mazda Cars' Tunbridge Wells offices, we tend to look to our own.

It's building buildings so efficiently that has built our business up to where it is today. A highly successful company that has been building since 1860, in spite of the ups and downs of the rest of the construction industry in Britain.

After all, how can we hope to meet your targets if we can't even meet our own?

If you would like more information on our wide range of operations please contact our Group Construction Director, Alan Baird, at G. E. Wallis & Sons Limited, 2-6 Homesdale Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 9TN. Telephone 01-464 3377.

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Building investments since 1860.

Electronic mail on display

By Pearce Wright

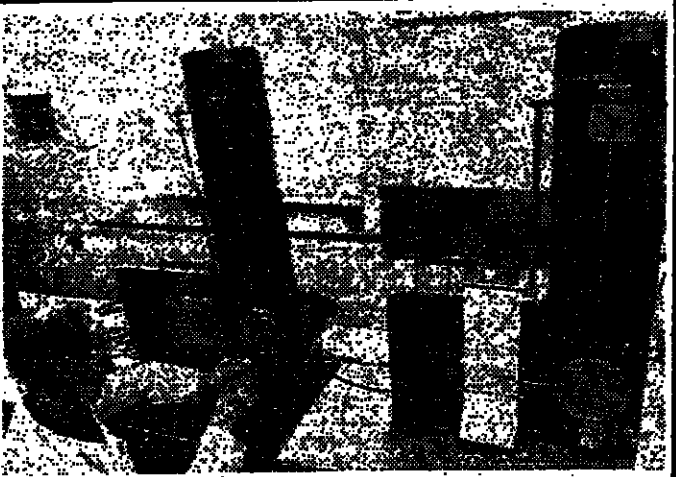
Science Editor

The method of transmitting facsimiles of photographs across the world by "wire photo" used routinely for newspaper work is being adapted for other purposes for the information technology age. The new application is for the so-called "electronic mail" services, whereby facsimiles of signed letters and tenders, or sketches and technical drawings, can be despatched economically.

Within 35 seconds a reproduction of an A4 size page can be sent via a telephone link from any town or city in Britain to any other in the UK, North America, Europe or Japan.

Equipment for doing that is among the products of display at the International Business Show starting at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, tomorrow.

A fascinating exhibit shows the history of facsimile technology. It is provided from the private museum of the Muirhead company, whose name is synonymous in the newspaper world with facsimile picture developments. The exhibit includes the machines in the



Models of early transmitters (Photograph: Chris Harris).

picture above, which look like pendulum clocks which have lost their clock faces.

They are reconstructions of the first facsimile machine patented by Alexander Bain in 1842, before the telephone was invented. Alexander Bain's facsimiles were transmitted over the simple Morse code telegraphy line.

But Alexander Bain's system is not merely an historical curiosity, it illustrates scanning, admittedly in its most elementary form, and synchronization between a transmitter and a receiver by what until recent years was the best frequency standard obtainable - a pendulum clock.

Bain's machine transmitted words that were in the form of printers' metal type. A pendulum carrying a resilient contact swung past the face of the type and when the contact touched a raised portion of the typeface, it completed a circuit from the transmitter to the receiving end of the system.

After each beat of the pendulum, the type was dropped down a step at a time so the next line could be read. At the receiving end a similar pendulum was swinging across a paper roll soaked in potassium iodide solution. After each swing of the pendulum at the receiver, the paper was moved up a line at a time.

British Telecom dispute

High Court to rule on fight over private link with phone network

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The industrial conflict over the sale of British Telecom and the introduction of competition into the industry moves into the High Court today when the Mercury group seeks an injunction to halt union disruption of its business.

The Post Office Engineering Union, which has about 2,000 British Telecom members either suspended or on strike, has quietly dropped some of its sanctions against Mercury since the company issued writs two weeks ago.

But the union is expected to mount a strong defence of its instruction to members not to cooperate with any inter-connection between Mercury facilities and Telecom circuits.

The union's leaders have decided to appeal if the injunction is granted and will look to the TUC for assistance in view of the long-stated policy that unions should not cooperate with the implementation of the Government's labour law reforms.

The union had for several months been "blacklisting" head offices of Cable and Wireless, British Petroleum and Barclays Bank, which are Mercury shareholders, but the action was called off after the writs were served.

Officials were aware that that action was almost certainly in breach of the secondary action provisions of the Employment

Act, 1980, but they will argue that the action to prevent inter-connection between Mercury and British Telecom is being taken against their own employer because its contract with another is "detrimental to their members' terms and conditions".

The writ states that the union is "threatening to bring about a breach of the contractual relationships between Mercury and British Telecom". That contract became possible after the Government broke the telecommunications monopoly and Mercury is paying British Telecom for links with its circuits until the private company can lay its own cables.

The union's campaign against privatization is expected to increase in tempo this week as the management tries to make the dispute so expensive for the union that it has to back down.

The union last week spent about £250,000 out of a £1m dispute fund paying normal wages to workers who were either on strike or suspended. But officials pointed out yesterday that the union paid cash for its £3m west London headquarters and could raise loans using the building as security, but in four key exchanges in central London which service business districts. The remainder of those not at work are engineers suspended for refusing to cross picket lines.

The union's annual conference, which was curtailed in June because of the general

election, reconvenes in Blackpool next month, when delegates may consider national industrial action, such as an overtime ban or work to rule.

Meetings are being held at regional level on the prospect of national action, but there is concern there might not be enough support. At a special conference last month, about a third of the 132,000 members voted in favour of calling off the disruption.

So far, the action has been confined to London because the union has been trying to hit British Telecom revenue and City and business interests rather than the private subscriber, but left wingers are pressing for a widening of the dispute to bring greater pressure on British Telecom and the Government.

Union officials recognize that the Government is unlikely to change its plans to sell 51 per cent of the shares in British Telecom next year, but further action could make the shares unattractive because of the threat of more disruption.

About 1,500 maintenance engineers are on strike in the three London international exchanges with a further 250 in four key exchanges in central London which service business districts. The remainder of those not at work are engineers suspended for refusing to cross picket lines.

Left wing councils to bow before rate cuts

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

Left-wing Labour council leaders have privately accepted that they will be forced to make substantial spending cuts when the Government gets its controversial new rate capping powers.

During the 10 months before the powers take effect next summer, there will be a period of discussion among Labour activists about mass resignations of councillors, municipal bankruptcy, and "confrontation" requiring Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, to dispatch commissioners to the town halls. But leading Labour councillors already expect the Government to have trouble with a couple of London boroughs at most, one of which will be Islington.

The other councils on the "hit list" of high spending authorities, including Sheffield, Camden and Haringey, see no option but to acquiesce and make the required cuts.

An important pointer to the direction of thinking of even such apparent die-hards as Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth, came last Friday at a conference convened by Liverpool polytechnic on how to live with centrally imposed spending targets.

Mr Martin Coleman, leader of Brent Council, a likely candidate for rate-capping and a council where Labour's new left is strong, said Labour council-

lors would have no option but to stay in office and try to persuade people that cuts were the fault of the Conservative Government.

He said that arguments against rate-capping "might be presented as our arguing for high rates". By ceding control of councils to Conservative oppositions to force them to carry out cuts, Labour would only lose credibility he said.

Mr Coleman's arguments undoubtedly carry weight within the Association of London Authorities, the newly-formed grouping of Labour Councils in the capital, many of whose members face a cap of their rates next year.

Call to end system

The Federation of Scottish Ratepayers has labelled the government's White Paper on rating as "worthless and complacent" and has renewed its call for the present system to be abolished.

In a scathing 10-point submission to the White Paper, the federation claims the document does nothing to solve the major problems posed by the rating system, nor does it answer the criticisms levelled against it.

Federation vice chairman, Dr Frank Riddell said: "It's like applying sticking plaster to a patient when major surgery is needed. We want the system replaced

Cairngorms 'should be wilderness'

The Government is to be urged to designate the Cairngorms a "wilderness area" and protect it from over development.

Delegates at the third World Wilderness congress in Scotland last week agreed to send an urgent cable to the Government after hearing threats to the mountain area.

Dr Adam Watson, of the Institute of Technical Education, said the 180,000-acre range was being seriously affected by the development of skiing and other sporting facilities, road building and tree planting.

"I cannot think of any better place for designation as a wilderness site," he said.

But members of the Highland Regional Council are likely to oppose the move because it may limit economic development in the Highlands.

Congress delegates had earlier heard from Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, that the Government intended to ratify the World Heritage Convention of 1972, under which it must designate particularly important areas as wilderness sites.

The congress, which ended on Friday, also decided to contact four overseas governments.

It is to praise Australia for protecting the Great Barrier Reef and south-west Tasmania and congratulate India for saving the Silent Valley forest.



Friends of the mighty oak hunt down insect enemy

Defenders of the mighty oak searching through the leaves during yesterday's Biggest Acorn Hunt in History to find out how many of London's oaks have been attacked by a little insect called *Andricus Quercuscalculus*.

Dr Michael Crawley (left), a lecturer at Imperial College, London, explained to participants that the insect will not only put the long-term future of the oak in jeopardy but also deprive squirrels, wood mice, jays, and pigeons of their autumn sustenance.

The special hunts orga-

nized by Capital Radio, took place at Battersea Park, Sydenham Hill, Parliament Hill, Victoria Park, and Wimbledon Common and came after the successful hedgehog watch of the summer, also organized by the radio station in conjunction with the London Wildlife Trust and Friends of the Earth.

The insect which has not yet acquired a popular name is responsible for knopper galls which appear on acorns. It has no insect enemies to keep it in check.

(Photographs: John Voss)

Troubles at the Tribune

Local rift with Silkin widens

By John Winder

The legal tussle over the future of *Tribune*, the left-wing Labour weekly, is likely to lead to further dispute between Mr John Silkin, MP for Deptford, and members of the general committee of Deptford Labour Party when it meets next month.

Some members of the committee, Mr Silkin says that they form only a minority, believe that taking legal action against comrades brings the party into disrepute.

Mr Silkin resigned from the board of *Tribune* last week together with Lord Bruce of Donington a Labour peer, who is taking legal action over control of the magazine in a case which is expected to come before the courts early next year.

Last night, Mr Silkin said that the action against the board of *Tribune* was nominal and added: "No question arises of the paper going down the drain at all."

On the question of relations

with his constituency party, Mr Silkin said that he doubted whether members of the general committee even knew that he was on the board of *Tribune* Publications.

The dispute has a long history. Last December, Mr Silkin and Lord Bruce obtained a majority of the shares of £1 each still available from the 427 which had been allocated when the company was set up in 1937 with a nominal capital of 1,000 £1 shares. They ousted Mr Chris Mullin and Mr George Hopkinson, the advertising managers from the board.

The reply of Mr Mullin and staff of the paper was to call a shareholders meeting and set up an employee shareholding scheme under the Companies Act, 1980.

Under that, 450 of the original shares were allocated to staff in packages of 50. That move led to the control of *Tribune* returning to the editor and staff. The action now being undertaken concerns the valid-

ity of the shareholding scheme for employees.

Mr Silkin is a member of the Shadow Cabinet and combines the post of "shadow leader" of the House of Commons with that of parliamentary spokesman on the key issue of defence. While he is not thought to want to continue in both offices, he will be standing for election to the Shadow Cabinet.

Tribune, in its latest issue, carries an editorial saying that anyone who upsets the new-found unity of purpose and confidence in the party will deserve short shift.

"That includes the left if it stands on the sidelines sniping from a position of ideological but ultimately sterile purity. It includes the right if it indulges in the kind of blackmail tactics which disgraced it under Michael Foot's leadership."

The editorial adds that it includes the leadership if it decides to play fast and loose with established party policy on such issues as disarmament.

Woman's plea raises hopes on death row

By Richard Evans

Hope for dozens of South Africans under sentence of death has emerged from the appeal of Mrs Maureen Smith, the British woman facing execution for the murder of her husband.

The Department of Justice has asked to stay the execution of a number of prisoners throughout the country pending the outcome of Mrs Smith's appeal, expected early next month.

The request follows Mrs Smith's renewed appeal hearing last month when Mr Douglas Shaw, QC, one of South Africa's most eminent lawyers, argued strongly that the law on the death sentence should be reconsidered.

South African law leaves judges with no option but to impose the death sentence on someone who has pleaded guilty or is found guilty of murder, unless the defendant can prove "extenuating circumstances" when the judge can exercise discretion.

But Mr Shaw argued that the rule arising from a "South African appeal court judgment in 1947, should be overturned and the onus should lie with the prosecution to prove that there are no extenuating circumstances.

Mr Duncan Downes, the Durban solicitor for Mrs Smith,

told *The Times*: "If that argument succeeds it will mean a significant change to the law."

People found guilty of murder who failed to prove extenuating circumstances and now face hanging could plead for clemency "because they were convicted under what would have been proved to have been the wrong law."

Mr Downes added: "There must certainly be a number of individuals who might be executed between now and the time that the Smith judgment is handed down. We have urged the Department of Justice to stay the execution of all such people pending the decision in the Smith case."

The ruling by the Court of Appeal, currently in recess, on this specific issue could have a crucial bearing on Mrs Smith's chances of being reprieved, because there is confusion over whether the original trial judge accepted that extenuating circumstances applied to her case.

Mrs Smith, aged 39, has been in a "death row" cell at Pretoria's maximum security prison for a year since she was sentenced.

Although she has suffered epileptic fits while in prison, she has been passed as medically fit after a recent examination by a neurologist.

BA denies pilots sleeping

By a Staff Reporter

British Airways has denied claims made in a report published by *The Observer* yesterday that some of their pilots working on long haul flights have been sleeping on journey.

The report by the British Airline Pilots' Association (BALPA), cites the flight from Los Angeles to London as the one that generates the most complaints from its members.

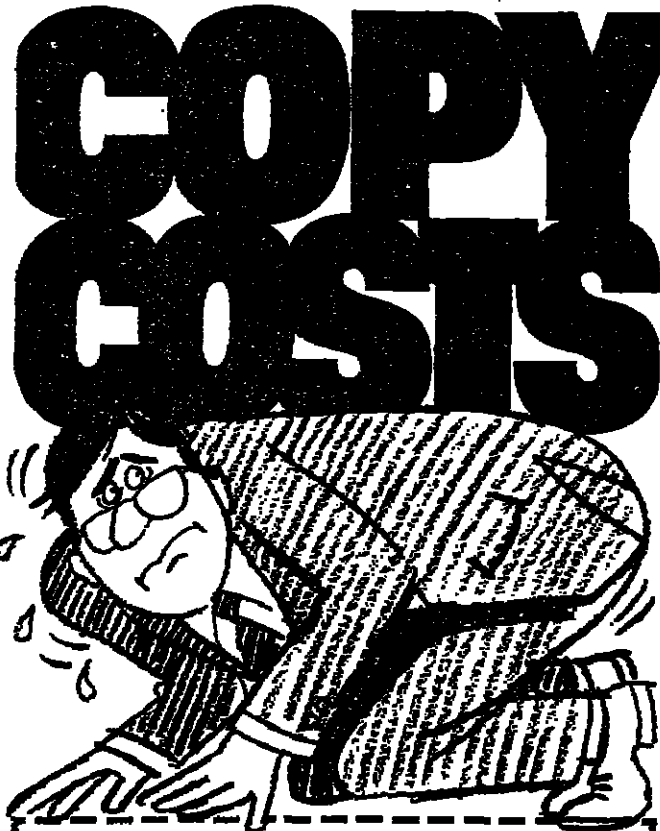
British Airways claim to have had no incidence of illegal

sleeping. A spokesman added: "Any pilot found sleeping illegally would be subject to disciplinary proceedings."

The airline also denied that it was in breach of any safety agreement.

BALPA is pressing British Airways for relief crews on flights from Los Angeles to London. The pilots claim that British Airways operates a two-pilot crew while other airlines on transatlantic routes operate with three.

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Farmer plans to row around the world

By Craig Seton

Mr Hugh King-Fretts, a Devon farmer, has built a 30ft rowing boat at a cost of £12,000 for an attempt to cross the Atlantic singlehanded this winter.

The boat touched water at the weekend when it was "launched" on a canal alongside the boathouse in Exeter. Miss Louise Davies, a friend of Mr King-Fretts, broke a bottle of champagne across its bow and named it Hula, a Polynesian word meaning "to overcome all".

Mr King-Fretts's plan to row across the Atlantic represents only one part of an ambition to row around the world. He intends to cross the Atlantic from the Canaries probably to the West Indies, and return to England to plan the next stage

of what would be an epic voyage: crossing the Pacific from the west coast of the Americas to Australia and across the Indian Ocean to Madagascar.

Mr King-Fretts, an Exmoor sheepfarmer aged 35, has been planning his "ultimate challenge" for eight years and by the time Hula is fully equipped he will have put nearly £20,000 of his own money into the adventure.

On Saturday in high winds and driving rain he clambered into one of Hula's two watertight compartments and remained inside while it was turned upside down in the water for self-righting trials. Then he took the oars and discovered that, unladen, the boat twisted and turned in the



Mr King-Fretts on board his do-it-yourself boat

fierce wind.

When the wind dropped he rowed for a quarter of a mile and came back to land to announce that he was satisfied with Hula's handling.

Before he leaves the Canaries Mr King-Fretts has to equip his boat fully.

He also has to complete his own training for the voyage. In the next few weeks Mr King-Fretts, who has a degree in zoology and marine biology, will take a merchant seaman's course in first aid, attend RAF survival lectures and continue his studies of astronavigation.

Biscuits chief to consider survival plan

Sir Hector Laing, the chairman of United Biscuits (UK), will receive today a joint action committee's plans to save the company's Crawford plant in Edge Hill, Liverpool, and the 2,100 strong workforce.

The company announced in June that the plant must be phased out within three years, but the action committee says it could be saved with a smaller factory, the loss of 900 jobs and the introduction of a new range of food products.

BMW's recalled

New 3-series BMW cars, registered from July 6, are being recalled for inspection because of the possibility of a fault on the steering lock which could cause it to operate without warning.

Strong tides help clear Humber oil spill

By Ronald Faux

Strong tides are helping to scour the last traces of the Humber oil spill from the estuary as Royal Society for Protection of Birds officers spoke of the danger remaining to the growing population of wintering birds.

The Humber is rated high in importance as a site for wintering waders. Pink foot and Brent geese who normally feed on the mud flats and salt marshes of the estuary are flying in from the Arctic but for the first time the birds are reported to be avoiding the shoreline and are concentrating instead on farmland around the Humber.

By next January there would normally be as many as 200,000 birds wintering on the estuary but the signs are that some are already moving on, possibly to the Wash or the sands at the mouth of the Tees, because of the pollution in the Humber.

In places, oil and detergent has seeped into the shore. Thousands of dead ragworms, lugworms and small shellfish, the winter feedstock for wildfowl and waders, have been found.

Mr Martin Davis, the regional officer for the society, said that the 6,000 tons of oil which poured from the tanker damaged as it berthed at Immingham, had not caused the severe harm that was first feared. A lot had evaporated and a high spring tide last weekend stranded a long line of oil which was being cleared.

Even so, this film of raw crude oil still appearing on the water, Mr Andrew Griev, the warden of the Black Toft sand reserve, said the danger remained. About 30 species have been affected by oil including one bunting.

He said that 600 birds had died or had been badly contaminated, including shell ducks,

cornmoons, black-headed gulls, and curlew. More than 3,000 birds had been sighted with oiled feathers.

Mr Griev added: "The danger is that when they preen their feathers they will poison themselves with the oil. We have found dead birds over a wide area."

Because of this the longer term effects of the spill cannot as yet be fully measured.

The RSPB added that they would question any future proposals to site oil terminals in estuaries that were important bird sanctuaries and they would also press for the official investigation into the spill which is now being carried out to be made public.

Another lesson the society has learnt from the incident is that closer consultation is required between all the conservation organizations involved and the emergency services

London to get first view of £400m 'city'

By Hugh Clayton

Londoners will be given a first sight of their new £400m "city" today when architects' models of one of the capital's largest and most mysterious post-war property developments are put on show. But the exhibition will be for the press only.

London Bridge City is the name of a vast new business centre to be built with Kuwait money on a half-mile stretch of the south bank of the Thames between London Bridge and Tower Bridge. It has been dragged into the political battle between ministers and Labour-led councils. Despite the size and cost of the development, no plans have been shown to Londoners.

Unlike many smaller projects it has not been submitted to a public inquiry. Ministers used a law of their own devising to grant permission for the development without full public scrutiny through the London Dockland Corporation, a planning group set up to bring industry to some of the capital's derelict areas. London Bridge City is at the farthest western limit of the corporation's territory.

The new city, which will face the City of London across the river, will be built in two stages. The first will stretch from London Bridge station to a position about level with the warship, Belfast, moored permanently on the Thames. Building of the new city will be organized by St Martin's Property Corporation, a subsidiary of the Kuwait Government's investment fund.

It will have about two million square feet of office space, of which more than half will be built in the second stage. The development will include some homes and restoration of historic buildings.

The site is known as Hay's Wharf after one of the founding families of the London marine insurance market which started a business there 300 years ago.

Moscow

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Whitehall scotches summit hope, but...

Moscow begins to thaw towards Britain

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Soviet officials said yesterday that they were keen for an improvement in relations with Britain but that the prospect of a Thatcher-Andropov summit was remote.

Officials said the Soviet Union was anxious to mend fences with Britain "in the context of the current chill in East-West relations. British diplomats confirmed this view and said that Moscow was likely to use the visit to Russia by Mr James Callaghan to send a "signal" to London.

The former Labour Prime Minister arrives in Moscow today at the start of a week-long visit expected to involve talks with high level Soviet officials.

The Russians have been encouraged by the tone of Mrs Thatcher's speech to the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool, in which she remarked that Soviet Communism could not be "dis-invented" and that the East-West dialogue should be continued at every opportunity.

This was in contrast to earlier speeches last month in Washington and - more particularly - in Toronto in which the Prime Minister attacked Russia in what Soviet officials saw as more stridently anti-Soviet terms.

British officials said the Russians were looking for signs of a more pragmatic British approach to East-West affairs in the wake of the emotion generated by the Korean airliner crisis.

The current Soviet strategy is to persuade West European governments and public opinion of Moscow's good will over the issue of medium range missiles in Europe, and to put pressure on Nato to delay the imminent deployment of cruise and Pershing 2.

A meeting of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers in Sofia on Friday - attended by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister - took a markedly conciliatory line, suggesting that the Geneva talks should be continued past the December deadline, provided the December deployments were deferred.

Media feel Kremlin whip

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The Kremlin has issued stern instructions to Soviet press, radio and television for improving "counter-propaganda". A Politburo instruction published at the weekend said that the mass media and the party's "ideological department" would have to coordinate their efforts more effectively in future. This

In her Blackpool speech Mr Thatcher said she did not want the word "dialogue" to become suspect in the way the word "detente" had fallen into disavour, and Soviet officials seemed to agree wholeheartedly.

The Soviet View of the airliner crisis now appears to be that "mistakes" were made by the Soviet side, but that the United States has a great deal to answer for and that the Geneva arms talks are of overriding importance.

Moscow is expected to pursue this line with Mr Callaghan, who will be in Russia as the guest of the Supreme Soviet, but is seen as a political figure of some weight and influence.

Soviet officials said that although talk of a summit meeting between Mrs Thatcher and President Andropov was "nonsensical", more modest hopes of an improvement in Anglo-Soviet relations were realistic.

British officials confirmed that the postponed visit to London by Mr Georgy Konstantinovich, the Deputy Foreign Minister, might now take place by the end of the year. Officials said

● LONDON: Mrs Thatcher wrapped her Iron Lady's cloak more tightly around her yesterday and made it clear that she has no intention of seeking a summit with Mr Andropov (Henry Stanhope writes).

Close observers of the Prime Minister's utterances detected what sounded like a softening of her attitude in her Blackpool speech.

This led to weekend speculation that she was contemplating talks with the Soviet leader in Moscow next spring, and that Mr Callaghan's private four-day visit would help to pave the way.

But wistful anticipation of an encounter was swiftly scotched by Downing Street aides last night.

"We are not looking for a summit in Moscow", a spokesman said emphatically. "And we are not seeking to use Mr Callaghan in this way."



Strong arm of the Law: West German anti-nuclear demonstrators being arrested on the road leading to the Ramstein headquarters of the US Air Force in Europe

Vodka is no tonic for the troops

The Soviet war machine is crippled by mass drunkenness, poor and antiquated equipment and "politically unreliable" troops, according to a book called *The Threat* by Andrew Cockburn.

He describes in his book, published today, tanks where the gunner is liable to lose an arm or leg.

Drunkness is so bad soldiers have died and gone blind drinking anti-freeze, MIG-breaking fluid, and can do nothing, he writes.

The Threat By Andrew Cockburn, Hutchinson, London, £9.95.

West braced for revised Soviet arms offer

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Western diplomats are bracing themselves to receive and improved offer from the Soviet Union on nuclear missiles in Europe.

The most likely timing is early next month before the West German debate on intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) in the Bundestag on November 21. But it could come as early as next week when President Andropov is thought to be planning an important speech.

So far the Russians have adopted two successive positions at the INF arms talks in Geneva, as they attempt to halt

the deployment of 572 American cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe from December.

They have offered to freeze the number of their SS20 weapons if Nato would abandon its plans, and they have promised to reduce the number facing Europe to 162, equal to the total of British and French strategic warheads.

Now it is believed that Moscow is preparing still more concessions on numbers, but only if American deployment is cancelled.

Leading article, page 13

Banker died fearing frame-up by KGB

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The British banker who died in a mysterious fall in Moscow last June told the British Embassy just before his death that he feared being blackmailed for pornography and illegal currency dealings.

Dennis Skinner, aged 54, who was the Midland Bank representative in Moscow, was found dead below his twelfth floor flat on the morning of Friday, June 17. Two days earlier he handed a note to a British business colleague in the same block of flats, in which he claimed that he knew of a Soviet spy in the British Embassy and that he might be arrested before he could attend an embassy reception that evening.

In the event Mr Skinner, who was in a distraught state, entered the embassy without hindrance and talked to Mr David Ratford, the British minister, and the head of embassy security. The banker spent the night of June 15 at the flat of another British diplomat and had a further interview with Mr Ratford the following day, Thursday.

That evening he returned alone to his own flat on Leninsky Prospekt, and was found at 8.30 on the Friday morning on the pavement outside. His pullover covered his eyes and his trouser leg was torn.

Embassy officials revealed yesterday that the post mortem examination on Mr Skinner had shown no trace of alcohol or drugs in his blood. One theory prevalent in Moscow at the time of his death was that he had been drinking heavily and had taken his own life in a depressed state of mind.

In his conversations with British officials just before he died he reportedly gave a confused account of his anxieties. He said he knew the identity of a Soviet spy in the embassy, and that the KGB were on his trail.

He said he believed the KGB were about to try and "frame him", accusing him of dealing in pornography and illegal currency transactions. Both are commonly used by the KGB to put pressure on foreigners or to justify expulsions.

Embassy officials have refused to confirm or deny that Mr Skinner named the person he suspected of being a Soviet spy.

Sikhs launch bomb campaign to terrorize Hindus

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Sikh terrorists have launched a death campaign against Hindus, indiscriminately throwing grenades into crowded public places.

Fear and hostility provoked by the bloodshed is threatening to cause a major outbreak of communal violence.

Three people died at the weekend when a grenade exploded at a Hindu festival in Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana states. Five more died when grenades went off in two cinemas in Delhi, which also has a large Sikh population.

No one was killed, but 19 people were injured when another exploded in a crowd at Delhi railway station. Another unexploded grenade was found in one of the cinemas.

This is the beginning of the festival season when the end of the monsoon is celebrated with holidays and big public displays. The Dussehra festival which began at the weekend is marked by episodes from the life of Rama being performed in parks and in special gardens designated "Ram-Lila grounds".

The Muslims have their

Mohurram festival next, beginning soon, and a second big Hindu holiday follows shortly after - Diwali, or the festival of lights, sometimes called the Hindu Christmas.

All these festivals are marked by the gathering of large crowds to watch the celebrations, and the authorities fear they will be tempting targets for the extremists. In Chandigarh all Ram-Lila displays have been abandoned after the weekend's blast.

Spectators at a bureaucrats' sports day in the city were all sent home, for fear of attracting further bombs. In Delhi people are now banned from taking parcels into cinemas.

The authorities have also responded by tightening security all round. Eight additional companies of the para-military Central Reserve Police Force have been drafted into Delhi. In the Punjab special powers have been given to the Army.

Mrs Indir Gandhi the Prime Minister, has responded to the increased violence by virtually ruling out further talks with the Akali Party while the confrontation continued. She told a crowded press conference: "Attitudes have to change."

Treurnicht provokes Christianity clash

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The Christianity of South Africa's proposed new constitution has become a big issue among Afrikaners in the run-up to the all-white referendum on November 2, which will determine whether the Constitution Bill, already passed by Parliament, will be put into effect.

The row started last week with a speech by Dr Andries Treurnicht during ceremonies marking Kruger Day, when Afrikaners pay homage to the memory of the president of the old Transvaal-based republic which fought Britain in the Boer War.

Dr Treurnicht, leader of the extreme right-wing Conservative Party (CP) and chief druid of *Verkrampd* (hardline) apartheid, argued that it was inconsistent of the new constitution to uphold "Christian and civilised standards" while permitting non-Christians to share in the government of Christians.

The constitution provides for the creation of a tricameral parliament in which the existing



Dr Treurnicht: Hit a raw nerve

all-white chamber would be supplemented by separate chambers for South Africa's Indian and mixed-blood Coloured minorities.

Initially, Dr Treurnicht, a former minister in the predominantly Afrikaner and pro-apartheid Dutch Reformed Church, was thought to have made a tactical blunder.

However, it now seems that he may have struck an emotionally resonant right-wing chord which could swell the "No" vote.

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On the road. **VOLVO**

Ghosts of Kojak, Reagan and Walesa stalk Warsaw party meeting

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The brash tones of the ideological drill sergeant echoed round the squat headquarters of the Polish Communist Party at the weekend: get in line, look lively, brace up, get weaving.

Exhortation rather than the bitter infighting or embarrassing self-analysis was the hallmark of the plenary session of the party's policy-setting Central Committee, billed for many months as a crucial meeting that would firmly point out the relevance of Marxism-Leninism to Poland's problems.

The idea was to invigorate the Communist Party, to stimulate young people to join its ranks, to chart a course that would reassure Moscow that the Polish leadership was not going soft on Socialism.

Inside the Central Committee halls, 44 speakers told each other that something had to be done. Outside, in ordinary households the talk was of why American, West German and Norwegian music had been banned from Polish radio (answer: to punish everybody for the award of the Nobel Prize to Mr Lech Walesa) and why Kojak had been suddenly removed from Saturday night television schedules.

The party had lost overboard about 800,000 members, some of them deliberately, over the past three years. It is now

preparing an election campaign - to choose communist representatives at local and regional levels - which may well be used to exorcise those party members still imbued with the spirit of Solidarity, known in the jargon as "revisionists".

All of this requires an influx of new talent, preferably uncommitted and relatively competent, to fill the vacant positions.

Brigadier-General Tadeusz Dzikkan, head of the party's personnel department, presented a document at the plenary session defining the duties and tasks of future party activists as well as a list of positions that required party approval.

The point, he said, was to maintain and strengthen the party's vanguard role in society - that is, to insert party members in as many key positions as possible. For that reason, great value would be placed on professional skills and administrative competence as well as ideological purity.

Other issues raised were: Appeals to understand workers' problems and bring the party closer to the class that it is supposed to both serve. Only 40 per cent of the Party's membership are workers.

Concern, especially among more dogmatic Marxists, about

wage differentials notably between state concerns and private enterprise; a particularly sensitive area since a new wage - system rewarding workers for higher productivity - is about to be introduced and may inflame worker discontent.

The Catholic Church. There were surprisingly few attacks and they took the form of calling for demarcation between church and state in such things as education. Repeated calls for more Marxist-Leninist influence in schools and generally among young people.

One of the odd features of such top party meetings is that the infighting is almost always carried out before the session begins and the speeches are often therefore relaxed or amusing.

One was delivered by a peasant farmer Mr Mieczyslaw Maksoymowicz, who criticized Mr Walesa: "Last year Mr Pize winner was together with Mr Reagan boldly advocating sanctions the very sanctions that deprived my geese of fodder. When the American universities begin to run out of doctorates to give away, it would be worthwhile to think of putting up the same company for an Oscar: Reagan for best director, Mr Walesa for best performer." The delegates hooted with laughter.

Chinese police have nearly finished their task of shooting 5,000 criminals by the end of this month, as ordered by the party and Government during the summer, according to informed sources.

The huge crackdown on crime and corruption this year has resulted in executions in all main cities. Travellers report seeing many posters announcing executions, which are carried out immediately after sentencing or rejection of an appeal.

Bound criminals are being paraded through the streets of provincial cities, bearing big notices detailing their crimes, before being shot.

Crimes of violence - murder, rape and armed robbery - are the commonest capital offences, but malfeasance on a large scale can also bring the death penalty.

Executions are often preceded by big sentencing rallies in sports stadiums, but the executions are generally not in public. Prison staff attend as witnesses.

Soldiers blind the victims and force them to kneel and they are shot in the back of the head by a uniformed policeman. Members of the public are strongly in favour of executing violent criminals.

Leading article, page 13



By numbers: Young offenders being drilled at reeducation camp in Peking.

A bullet in the back of the head

David Bonavia, Peking Correspondent, in this first of two articles on crime and corruption in China, reports on a grim phase of the anti-crime campaign.

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Soldiers blind the victims and force them to kneel and they are shot in the back of the head by a uniformed policeman. Members of the public are strongly in favour of executing violent criminals.

Leading article, page 13

Recently a man in the province of Hebei, in north China, was shot for embezzling the equivalent of £11,000 and "raping" 30 women. (The Chinese definition of rape includes seduction, but not adulterous affairs, which are called "social crimes".)

The man, in his late forties, had seven hideaways, where he took the women and drove from one to another, in a misappropriated bread van.

In another case police and troops last month mounted a huge hunt in Jiangxi province and shot dead two brothers.



They had robbed a bank and been on a killing spree in widely separated parts of the country, picking policemen as their victims.

They had murdered some 15 people before being hunted down.

In the border town of Shenzhen recently, a young Chinese man from Hongkong and three accomplices, from the mainland, were shot after trying to rob a department store.

One reason for the mass round-up of criminals and hoodlums and the target of executing 5,000 is that crime has become a political issue in top leadership circles.

Some officials, including it is believed, senior army commanders, have blamed economic reforms promoted by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman and his supporters.

The opening of China's doors to more foreign trade and foreign investment since the late 1970s has brought in "decadent bourgeois trends", in the view of officials who cling to the ideas associated with Mao Tse-tung.

Internal economic reform is also blamed for having made people too money-conscious and greedy.

In addition, there are more young people unemployed now, because of the Deng group's policy of cutting investment in heavy industry and the end of the policy of sending young people to rural areas to work among peasants. Some young people without jobs have banded together into street gangs, which are a big source of crime and delinquency.

The police have been rounding up young urban delinquents and many are expected to be sent to the province of Qinghai, adjoining Tibet and other remote areas where conditions are austere.

Tomorrow: Corruption

Turkish terrorists die

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Two Turkish terrorists, members of the underground Dev-Yol (Revolutionary Road) organization were killed and two others were captured during a dragnet operation near the northern Turkish town of Fatsa, the state radio announced on Saturday quoting a statement by the martial law authorities.

One of the captured terrorists and two soldiers were injured.

Yacht faces race ban

From Tony Dubodien, Melbourne

The crew of a South African yacht who had planned to enter this year's Sydney to Hobart Blue Water classic yacht race, face being banned entry to Australia by the Federal Government.

Mr Stewart West, the Minister for Immigration, is understood to oppose the crew's entry, and Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister, is expected to

Plight of rights workers exposed

By Caroline Moorehead

On March 25 this year, two days after a government amnesty which said political exiles could return home freely, a labour lawyer, America Yolanda Urizar, crossed the border back into Guatemala.

She was on her way to advise a group of plantation workers. A few hours later, she was abducted by armed men in civilian clothes and driven off in an army Jeep. She has not been seen since.

In South Africa, Johnny James Isseel, a community leader in the Western Cape, has been working for black civil and political rights since the early 1970s for most of the last 10 years he has been under a banning order, or in detention, without being charged.

In China, Liu Qing is serving a seven-year prison sentence for "counter-revolutionary" offences - he posted details of the trial of a prisoner of conscience on the "democracy wall" in Peking.

He is one of 30 editors of unofficial journals to have been arrested in the last few years.

This year Amnesty International has decided to devote its Prisoner of Conscience week to the harassment and persecution of people working for human rights all over the world.

In Human Rights Activists in Prison, a special report issued today, it chronicles the fate of individual victims from Latin America to the Soviet Union, from China to South Africa and highlights categories of people particularly at risk.

These are members of religious bodies, active in assisting prisoners, relatives of political prisoners, teachers, trade union workers and university students.

Everywhere, the report makes it plain, those active in human rights are being sentenced to long prison terms in secret trials.

Lawyers and members of human rights organizations appear to be particularly at risk.

Worst of all, perhaps, is the position of human rights workers in Latin America.

Mariela Garcia Villas was president of a non-governmental organization human rights group when her name appeared on two "death lists". In March this year the authorities announced that she had been killed in an armed clash with their forces, although others have disputed this version. She was the fourth founder member of the group to die violently.

Albania throws a big party for Hoxha

Vienna (Reuters) - Albanians celebrated the seventy-fifth birthday yesterday of Mr Enver Hoxha, the Communist leader, with a festival in his birthplace, Albanian diplomats in Vienna said.

The Central Committee of the ruling Party of Labour also marked the event by sending Mr Hoxha, who is the longest-serving leader in the Communist world, "the most ardent revolutionary greetings", the diplomats said.

Celebrations began as early as September 30 when Mr Doshka accepted the congratulations of a group of workers who visited him at his house in Tirana.

They reached a climax on Saturday in the southern town of Gjirokastë, where he was born on October 16, 1908, with a national folk festival attended by "vanguard workers, veteran working people of art, culture and science, military men and youngsters", the official news agency, Ata, said.



Hoxha: Ideologically rigid, unrepentant Stalinist.

Mr Hoxha, son of middle-class Muslim parents, came to power in 1944 after leading Albania's war resistance against occupying German and Italian troops, and ever since has governed his Balkan state with stern ideological rigidity.

In a reference to his unrepentant Stalinist views, the Central

Committee's message said: "As a loyal disciple of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, you have defended and further developed their ideas... in irreconcilable struggle with the renegades and enemies of communism."

Mr Hoxha's Stalinism has caused breaks with the ruling parties of the Soviet Union, China, Yugoslavia and every other communist state except Vietnam. It has also produced a series of purges within the Albanian party of former comrades of Mr Hoxha denounced for ideological deviation.

Describing his arrival at Gjirokastë's palace of sports, Ata said: "All the people present burst into ardent applause and cheers when the beloved leader of our party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, entered the hall."

"Our dear leader met cordially with folk singers, dancers and instrumentalists and embraced them with love."

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Nakasone faces biggest test of political skill to hold Liberals together

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

The day before Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister of Japan was found guilty last week and sentenced to four years in prison for accepting over £1.4m in bribes, the scene looked like Liberal Democratic Party politics as usual.

The present Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, sat next to his predecessor, Mr Zenko Suzuki, with a score of other top politicians at a hotel wedding party for the daughter of a fellow parliamentarian, whose late father was one of the giants of post-war politics.

Both Mr Nakasone and Mr Suzuki made congratulatory speeches, which waxed eloquently on memories of the bride's famous grandfather. They heaped praise on the bride's father, one of the rare LDP parliamentarians who belongs to none of the main personal factions which dominate the party. Mr Tanaka's being the largest. Occasionally, the two faction leaders could be seen chatting privately at the table.

This type of *nemawashi* (literally, stirring the roots) is what holds the LDP together. Mr Nakasone, whose hold on the top job depends directly on support from the Suzuki and Tanaka factions, will need to cultivate all the roots he can to survive the events unfolding in the wake of the Tanaka verdict.

Mr Tanaka's adamant refusal to retire from politics or resign his seat in the Lower House has stretched the highly resilient political fabric of the LDP nearly to tearing point. A poll taken after the verdict by *Asahi Shimbun*, a leading daily, indicates that 80 per cent of the people in Japan believe Mr Tanaka should resign or retire.

Within the party, with the obvious exception of Mr Tanaka's own faction, the resignation mood is strong. Barring a change of heart by Mr Tanaka, the outcome of events from now on will depend largely on Mr Nakasone's considerable political skill. He has so far trodden lightly on the matter, but tough decisions will have to be made soon.



Mr Nakasone: Survival test

The LDP, with its sheer numerical strength in the Diet, can probably hold off the most immediate threat: opposition party moves to submit a resolution calling for Mr Tanaka's resignation.

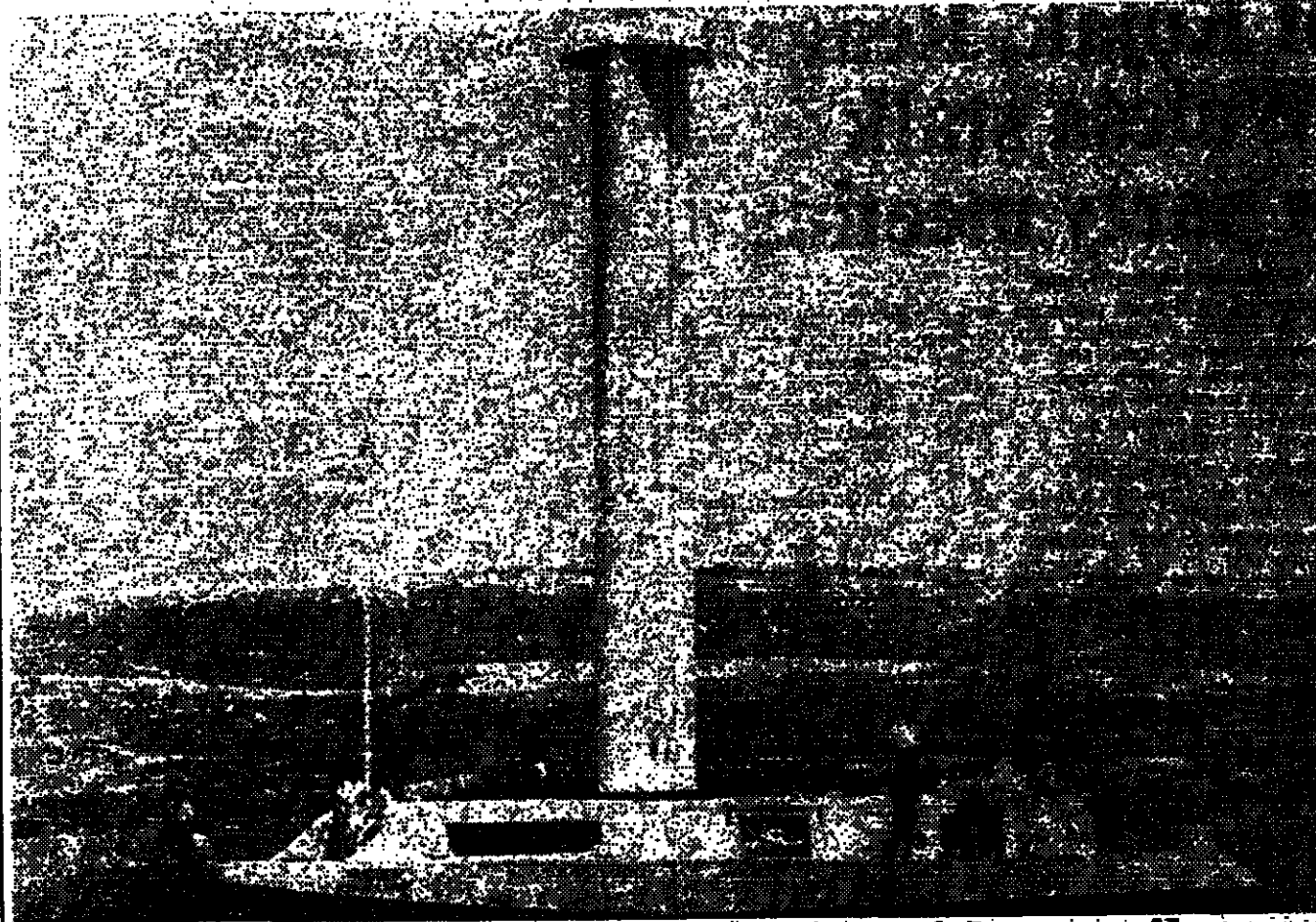
But parliamentary activity has ground to a halt since Wednesday's verdict, and will remain stalled this week until the LDP leaders piece together a compromise on how to proceed with the Tanaka issue.

A prolonged boycott by the opposition would be one added pressure on Mr Nakasone to call a general election in December, probably around Christmas, to clear the air.

Momentum for an early election has indeed been building for some time.

How the LDP fares at the polls will in the large part determine whether Mr Nakasone will survive for a full second term as head of the party — a feat which no Prime Minister has managed since Mr Tanaka came to power.

There are several rivals for the top job lurking both in the non-mainstream factions, and within the Tanaka and Suzuki camps. To hold them at bay will require a great deal of political skill. As Mr Nakasone distances himself from Mr Tanaka's long shadow in the next few weeks, those skills will become more apparent.



Cousteau gone with the wind — without sails

The Moulin à Vent, M. Jacques Cousteau's revolutionary wind-propelled catamaran with no sails, which has set off from Tangiers in Morocco on its maiden voyage to New York with the 73-year-old maritime explorer at the helm.

M. Jacques Cousteau, vice-president of the Cousteau Foundation in Paris, said the new energy-saving method of propulsion, evolved by the foundation after two years of research, could be of

enormous benefit to the world's shipping, from oil tankers to fishing boats (Diana Geddes writes).

The conventional double mast on M. Cousteau's 74ft catamaran has been replaced by a single 44ft hollow cylinder, half the height of the mast, down either side of which runs a closable vent covered by a perforated sheet through which the wind can pass.

A boat using this method of

propulsion could go just as fast as a sail-rigged boat of the same type and weight.

The Moulin à Vent, which has a maximum speed of 11 knots is expected to arrive in New York between November 10 and 15.

In cooperation with the French Government and a French shipping company, the foundation is now about to equip a 360ft, 4,000-ton cargo ship with its new system.

Socialist premiers honour Greece

From Mario Medinas, Athens

The Socialist Prime Ministers of Portugal, Spain, France and Italy have been wallowing in sumptuous informality at a seaside luxury hotel near Athens, to air ideas and compare notes, but above all to honour Mr Andreas Papandreu, their Greek host and colleague, who celebrates his second anniversary in power. However, as they must fly back to their own countries later today they will miss the gigantic anniversary rally in the heart of Athens tomorrow night, which Mr Papandreu is to address under the dazzling glare of 600 powerful television lights.

The prime ministers may envy the triumph of their Greek colleague but not his record. For all the welcome reforms that the Greek Socialists have legislated during the first half of their four-year term, their performance has come dramatically short of voters' expectations on the things that really matter.

His fellow Socialists may detect familiar facets in Mr Papandreu's economic policies, but there is little to admire in their strikingly negative results which, after two years, it is becoming difficult to blame on world recession or the "chaos" inherited from the conservatives.

Some statistics are truly extraordinary: inflation is rising at more than 20 per cent, unemployment — practically unknown before — is above 10 per cent, 1,800 industries which made profits of 13.5 billion drachmas (£97m) in 1981, lost 17 billion drachmas in 1982 and expect even worse results this year.

More than 37,000 businesses went bankrupt, and after the number of bouncing cheques doubled to 45,200 strict penalties were enforced despite the 1983 wage freeze; competitiveness plummeted, and exports dropped although the drachma was devalued overall by 64 per cent.

All of this has happened



Mr Papandreu: Second anniversary in power

despite an unprecedented calm on the labour front. Within the last 12 months Greece's foreign exchange earning capacity dropped by £1.7 billion, despite the huge inflow of European Community funds, and loans from Western banks. As an opposition leader said recently: "The Government has tucked its ideology in the left pocket and its wallet in the right."

Where this left-wing ideology emerges in sharp relief is in foreign affairs — where Mr Papandreu, unlike his fellow socialists who have digested their role in the Western context, combines a systematic pro-Soviet bias with a complete dependence on the United States and the West for national security and cash.

What forces the Greek Socialists to deviate from the orthodox path so far on such crucial issues as Nato, American bases and the European Community is the need to secure from the West the means to fend off the assumed Turkish military threat, and the risk of an economic crash.

Bourassa comeback in Quebec

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Robert Bourassa has recaptured the leadership of the Liberal Party of Quebec, thereby taking a giant stride toward becoming again the Premier of the predominantly French-speaking province.

Mr Bourassa, aged 50, staged a remarkable political comeback on Saturday night in Quebec City, sweeping to a first-ballot victory over two other candidates.

He polled 2,138 votes, or about 75 per cent of the total. Mr Pierre Paradis, a 33-year-old member of the Quebec National Assembly, obtained 353 votes, while Mr Daniel Johnson, aged 38, also a member of the Assembly, received 343 votes.

Mr Bourassa's widely predicted triumph automatically makes him a threat to the position of Mr René Lévesque, the separatist-minded Premier who pushed him out of office seven years ago.

Recent opinion polls have shown the Liberals, even without a leader, have far more popular support than Mr Lévesque's Parti Québécois (PQ), which advocates the independence of Quebec from the rest of Canada.

However, it could be two years or more until the next provincial general election takes place.

The slim, academic-looking Mr Bourassa was Premier of Quebec, population 6,000,000, from 1970 to 1976. His term ended in disaster when amid widespread charges of government corruption, mismanagement and patronage, the PQ stormed into power with its promise of good government and referendum on independence.

Mr Bourassa resigned in some disgrace as Liberal leader and opposition leader, and was replaced by Mr Claude Ryan, a former newspaper publisher.

In his victory on Saturday, Mr Bourassa confidently predicted victory for the Liberals, saying that 1985 will witness "the liberation of Quebec from the PQ."

Farm ministers feel the chill of EEC freeze

From Ian Murray, Brussels

EEC Agriculture Ministers must today consider tightening their belts. The common agricultural policy (CAP) has been eating up more and more of the Community budget, and the two main farming nations, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, will be forced to consider rationing.

Last week, as a precautionary measure, the European Commission ordered a 10-day freeze on payments of some advances for premiums and export refunds. It will have to extend the freeze to the end of the year when it meets again on Wednesday to give it any chance of success.

The Commission believes it must save up to £360m from this year's budget if the Community is not to break its

own laws by going into the red before December 31. Some of the agriculture ministers remain to be convinced, but Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, is likely to emphasize that the freeze demonstrates that the CAP is in desperate need of reform.

After the Commission introduced the freeze last week, it was agreed that requested advances for agriculture by member states in November should be cut by nearly a quarter. There was suspicion that some, if not all, were inflating their demands to get enough money to tide them over to the end of the year.

The Commission will be trying to clarify this in Luxembourg.

Thais fear Soviet might

From Ned Kelly, Bangkok

Thailand should expand its armed forces to provide for stability and to meet the huge build-up of Soviet strength in the region, according to General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, the newly appointed Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

General Arthit, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Army, told a Bangkok newspaper that even though it was high, defence spending was only

just enough to keep the forces going.

This financial year Thailand is spending more than £1,000m on defence — almost 20 per cent of the national budget.

The general said he had asked the United States during a recent visit to increase its military aid, especially easier payment terms for weapons Thailand is buying.

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Court of Appeal

Policy of reducing disqualification

Regina v Thomas (Kevin)

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Michael Davies and Mr Justice French

[Judgment delivered October 14]

Well established sentencing policy was that a long period of driving disqualification might be contrary to public interest in being counter-productive by involving further motoring offences from a young motorist seemingly incapable of leaving vehicles alone.

Consequently the sentencing policy could amount to grounds for mitigating the normal consequences of a conviction for motoring offences and enabled the court to impose disqualification for less than the statutory minimum of two years under section 19(4) of the Transport Act 1968.

The Lord Chief Justice so stated when giving the court's reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Kevin Thomas, aged 25, against imposed at Crimsey Crown Court (Judge Geoffrey Jones) on pleas of guilty to two offences of driving while disqualified. He was sentenced also to six months' imprisonment which he had served. On appeal the period of disqualification was reduced to one year.

Section 19 provides: "(2) Where a person is convicted of an offence... and the penalty points to be taken into account... number 12 or more, the court shall order him to be disqualified for not less than the minimum period defined in subsection (4) unless the court is satisfied, having regard to all the circumstances not excluded by subsection (6), that there are grounds for mitigating the normal consequences of the conviction and thinks fit to order him to be disqualified for a shorter period..."

"(16) No account is to be taken under subsection (2) of... (a) any circumstances... alleged to make any of the offences not a serious one; (b) hardship, other than exceptional hardship; or (c) any circumstances which... within... three years... have been taken into account under that subsection..."

By section 19(4) the minimum period was six months, or one or two years, depending on previous disqualifications.

Mr T. J. Spencer, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the appellant had an appalling driving record. At least four times previously he had been before the court for driving while disqualified and he was imprisoned for the offence in 1981 and 1982. The trial judge's view that the appellant was quite arrogant in relation to the law was amply justified.

Nevertheless the judge would have liked to disqualify the appellant for less than two years. He was influenced by the recently accepted sentencing policy in such a

case that, with persons such as the appellant, who seemed to be incapable of leaving motor vehicles alone, to impose a period of disqualification which would extend for a substantial period after their release from prison might well, and in many cases certainly would, invite the offender to commit further offences in relation to motor vehicles.

In other words, a long period of disqualification might well be counter-productive and so contrary to the public interest. It was unnecessary to refer to a line of cases; a good recent example was *R v Farnes* (The Times October 12, 1982).

Judge Jones concluded, after hearing argument, that he was precluded by the Transport Act 1968 - the relevant part of which came into operation on November 1, 1982 - from imposing a period of disqualification of less than two years.

Undoubtedly before November 1, 1982 the courts had power to do that which they often did. However, section 19 of the 1968 Act introduced tighter restrictions on the power of a court to reduce what would otherwise be a mandatory period of disqualification.

It was conceded at trial and on appeal that the appellant was caught by the provisions in that (i) his penalty points to be taken into account totalled 12 or more; and (ii) more than one previous disqualification had to be taken into account.

Accordingly the court was obliged to disqualify him for not less than two years unless the court was satisfied in accordance with section 19(2).

Counsel for the appellant submitted that none of the three exceptions which the court was required not to take account of applied to the present case. Quite clearly (a) and (c) did not - it had not been, and could not be, contended that the offences were not serious and there were no circumstances which had been taken into account on an earlier occasion for the purposes set out in subsection (6).

That left subsection (6)(b), "hardship other than exceptional hardship". It could not be said that the disqualification constituted "exceptional hardship"; if it did, of course, the task of the trial judge and the Court of Appeal would have been easy.

Their Lordships had to ask themselves whether to have regard to the principle of sentencing policy was taking account of "hardship". If so it would have to be excluded from consideration.

In their Lordships' judgment a proper construction of the statute did not lead to that result. To have regard to the well settled policy, in other words to the public interest, was not taking account of "hardship" any more than of "exceptional hardship".

Therefore, were there, within section 19(2), circumstances not

excluded by subsection (6) - and the principle of sentencing policy in question was not so excluded - in which the court could say that it was satisfied that there were "grounds for mitigating the normal consequences of the conviction"?

The principle of sentencing policy did constitute such grounds. The judge would have been entitled in law to do that which he wished to do. However, a culpable offender like the appellant could not expect that his period of disqualification would be no longer than the period which he was likely to spend in prison.

The period of disqualification had to depend on all the facts of the particular case. The appropriate period of disqualification, reflecting sentencing policy and the circumstances of the appellant, would be not two years but one year. To that extent the appeal was allowed.

Their Lordships would add that they were at one stage troubled by the apparent anomaly that a persistent offender like the appellant

might escape the minimum obligatory disqualification on account of sentencing policy while a person of reasonably good record and character who happened to acquire the appropriate number of penalty points might find himself unable to found successfully any argument against the imposition of the minimum obligatory disqualification.

The answer to that apparent anomaly was provided by counsel, who pointed out that the lesser gravity of such an offender's case would no doubt be reflected in the punishment meted out to him apart from disqualification.

A less serious offender - although he might have to be disqualified for a longer period - might well have been fined. The apparent anomaly was no good reason for departing from what their Lordships had endorsed as good sentencing policy, which could still be lawfully implemented in proper cases notwithstanding the changes introduced by the 1981 Act.

Queen's Bench Division

Citizen's wife had no right to enter UK

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Brahmbhatt

Before Mr Justice Woolf

[Judgment delivered October 12]

A woman who was the wife of a British citizen but who did not have a right of abode in the United Kingdom, was required to hold entry clearance in accordance with rules 46 to 49 of the *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules* (HC 169) in order to obtain leave to enter the country, Mr Justice Woolf held in the Queen's Bench Division, refusing an application for judicial review of a decision of an immigration officer who refused the applicant leave to enter.

Mr K. S. Nathan, for the applicant; Mr John Laws for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that the applicant was a Commonwealth citizen who married a British citizen in India on January 25, 1963. In March 1983 she applied for entry clearance at the British High Commission but because of the delay involved in obtaining entry clearance, she decided to come to the UK without waiting for it.

When she arrived on March 8, 1983 she was refused entry on the basis that she did not have entry clearance.

It was accepted that before the British Nationality Act 1981, the applicant would not have needed entry clearance. She would have had a right of abode which would have

been proved by a certificate of patriality. The law was changed by the 1981 Act just 25 days before her marriage.

The immigration officer considered that entry clearance was required because rules 46 to 49 were applicable. It was submitted on behalf of the applicant that they were not.

The rules clearly dealt with the entry of a wife of a person who was settled in the UK and in such a case, the wife clearly required entry clearance. It was submitted that the applicant was not to be treated as the wife of a person settled in the UK but was to be treated as the wife of a British citizen, and that the legislation and rules made a clear distinction between persons settled in the UK and persons who were British citizens.

It was submitted on behalf of the immigration officer that if that was so, a substantial class of people was totally ignored by the rules; that although a person was a British citizen, he was also a person settled in the UK, and so the rules applied to the applicant.

His Lordship considered that although the rules did not purport expressly to deal with wives of British citizens, they did in fact do so. Accordingly the immigration officer's approach was perfectly proper, entry clearance was required and the application would be refused.

Solicitors: Markand-Chimwoon, Forest Gate; Treasury Solicitor.

Challenging commons registrations

In re West Anstey Common

Before Mr Justice Whitford

[Judgment delivered October 12]

His Lordship dismissed with costs an appeal by Mr H. M. J. Harrison against the decision of Mr L. J. Morris Smith, a Commons Commissioner in relation to West Anstey Common, Devon, dated January 29, 1982. The appeal in the Chancery Division was based on the contention that the commissioner erred in law in not inquiring into the validity of the whole of the registered unit, in the land section, when a part only of the registration had been referred to him. The numerous respondents were persons who had claimed rights of common over the register unit.

Mr Vivian Chapman for the appellant, Miss Sheila Cameron, QC for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE WHITFORD said that on January 29, 1982, Mr Morris Smith gave a decision concerning West Anstey Common (including Anstey Rhiney Moor, Guphill Common, Anstey Mosey Common, Woodland Common and part of Twicken Common) all in north Devon, which had been registered as common land in the register maintained by Devon County Council, as unit No CL 143.

Edward Michael Harrison had been registered as owner of part of the land (being roughly Anstey Rhiney Moor and Guphill Common) and Ernest John Nicholls and George Eleanor Nicholls had been registered as owners of Woodland Common.

The appellant, Hugh Michael James Harrison, who had inherited his father's interests at about the time when various claims and objections were being registered pursuant to the Commons Registration Act 1965, now appealed by way of case stated under section 18 of the Act, on the ground that the commissioner's decision was erroneous in point of law.

There were a number of entries in the rights section of the register. The only objection as to the land section, objection 529, had been made by Messrs E. J. and G. E. Nicholls, on the ground that Woodland Common was and always had been private property over which there had never been any rights of common.

In his decision the Commissioner said that objection 529 related only to part of the register unit in the south east corner, known as Woodland Common, of which the objectors had been registered as owners. Only certain of the rights entries related to Woodland Common, and the commissioners said that there was no need to consider the evidence since ultimately the parties concerned accepted the objection.

Ms P. J. Tuckett, (a claimant in the rights section) was not present or represented and in the absence of evidence to establish her right the commissioner thought that he must regard the objection as successful, and he would therefore exclude Woodland Common from the land registered in the land section.

That brought his Lordship to the principal point in Mr Chapman's case that the commissioner was bound, once objection 529 had been taken, to inquire into the validity not only of the objection in so far as it related to Woodland Common, but as to the validity of the whole registration, although no other objections had been taken as to any other part of the land.

It was said that no objections had been taken, by the appellant or his father, 10 years ago when one might have thought they would be taken, that Anstey Rhiney Moor and Guphill Common ought not to have been admitted to registration.

It was said that it might seem hard so far as other parties were concerned that no objections having been taken then there should now be a re-hearing in which objections which ought to have been taken, could have been taken and were not taken then would be argued.

It was also said that quite plainly the scheme of the Act and the regulations made thereunder was based on a very tight time table and that no provision was made for any discretion in favour of anyone who had failed to object after the expiry of the relevant period for making objections.

But, as Mr Chapman rightly said, the court should not consider how hard it might be on others if in fact there had been an error of law and the matter would have to go back in that event whatever the cost in time and money might be to everybody concerned.

There were a number of entries in the rights section affecting the "Harrison" land, but no objections had been made against those claims.

The question for his Lordship was whether the commissioner was bound to inquire into the whole registration, as Mr Chapman contended, or whether his duty was rather more limited, as Miss Cameron contended, to give a decision as to the inclusion of Woodland Common in the registration.

Mr Chapman contended that the Act plainly provided that where objections were made to entries in the land section they could only be made in respect of the entry as a whole, because there was no express power in the Act for an objection to be made in respect of a part only of the land registration.

A casual observer might consider that to be a rather extraordinary provision in an Act intended to provide for the making of claims, the entry of objections and the disposal thereof within as short a time as might be possible without incurring unnecessary expense.

Section 5 was concerned to ensure that proper publicity was given to registrations and objections thereto. Nothing in the language of that section seemed to exclude the

possibility of objecting to part of a registration. It would be absurd to envisage a procedure which because a challenge was made to a part only required consideration of the whole.

Section 6 contemplated confirmation of a registration, with or without modification, which, to his Lordship's mind, was a clear indication that the framers of the provisions envisaged modifications by objections to part only of a registration.

Miss Cameron had referred to regulation 5 (4) of the Commons Registration (Objections and Maps) Regulations (SI 1968 No 989) which provided that where an objection was made to part only of the land comprised in the register unit, a plan clearly identifying the land to which the objection related had to accompany the objection form.

Mr Chapman sought to persuade his Lordship that a distinction was to be drawn between objection to a registration and the grounds thereof which might relate only to a part, and that the commissioner was bound to inquire into the whole although the objection related only to a part.

What was in fact referred to a commissioner was only a part of a registration and it seemed strange to his Lordship that it should be thought that there was any power for the commissioner to go to any other matters.

In support of his argument, Mr Chapman relied upon *In re Sutton Common, Wimborne*, ([1982] 1 WLR 647).

But *In re Sutton Common* had to be considered in relation to its own special facts. There a small part of

the land should never have been included and once the only rights claimant had disappeared, the commissioner was left to consider only whether the land was waste of a manor. The circumstances in that case were wholly different from the present case.

It was only when a question of registration requiring confirmation was referred to a commissioner that any question of onus of proof arose. Here all that was referred to the commissioner was whether Woodland Common should be included in the register, and in that the commissioner was able to reach an amply justified decision.

His Lordship could not accept that no other objection having been taken in the land section that there was any justification for, let alone obligation upon, the commissioner to inquire into the validity of the registration, other than in respect of this small part of the whole. Had there been any doubt the onus would have rested on the Anstey Parish Council who made the original entry.

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Deportation order appeal

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Murganandajah

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Sureshkumar

An adjudicator or immigration appeal tribunal, hearing an appeal against directions for removal from the United Kingdom on the ground that the appellant should be removed to another country under section 17(1) of the Immigration Act 1971, did not have jurisdiction to consider whether the directions for removal should be implemented at all and could only consider whether the appellant should be removed to a different country, Mr Justice Woolf so held in the Queen's Bench

Division on October 14 and refused two applications for judicial review.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in each case a deportation order had been made and directions for removal to Sri Lanka had been given. Each applicant wished to raise before the adjudicator and tribunal the issue that the directions should not be made because each applicant should be granted political asylum. The applicants were Tamil and contended that they would be subject to arrest in Sri Lanka.

Having regard to the language of section 17(1), a person could appeal only on the ground that he ought to be removed to a different country specified by him and not on the basis of any wider ground.

Mr T. J. Spencer, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the appellant had an appalling driving record. At least four times previously he had been before the court for driving while disqualified and he was imprisoned for the offence in 1981 and 1982. The trial judge's view that the appellant was quite arrogant in relation to the law was amply justified.

Nevertheless the judge would have liked to disqualify the appellant for less than two years. He was influenced by the recently accepted sentencing policy in such a

case that, with persons such as the appellant, who seemed to be incapable of leaving motor vehicles alone, to impose a period of disqualification which would extend for a substantial period after their release from prison might well, and in many cases certainly would, invite the offender to commit further offences in relation to motor vehicles.

In other words, a long period of disqualification might well be counter-productive and so contrary to the public interest. It was unnecessary to refer to a line of cases; a good recent example was *R v Farnes* (The Times October 12, 1982).

Judge Jones concluded, after hearing argument, that he was precluded by the Transport Act 1968 - the relevant part of which came into operation on November 1, 1982 - from imposing a period of disqualification of less than two years.

Undoubtedly before November 1, 1982 the courts had power to do that which they often did. However, section 19 of the 1968 Act introduced tighter restrictions on the power of a court to reduce what would otherwise be a mandatory period of disqualification.

It was conceded at trial and on appeal that the appellant was caught by the provisions in that (i) his penalty points to be taken into account totalled 12 or more; and (ii) more than one previous disqualification had to be taken into account.

Accordingly the court was obliged to disqualify him for not less than two years unless the court was satisfied in accordance with section 19(2).

Counsel for the appellant submitted that none of the three exceptions which the court was required not to take account of applied to the present case. Quite clearly (a) and (c) did not - it had not been, and could not be, contended that the offences were not serious and there were no circumstances which had been taken into account on an earlier occasion for the purposes set out in subsection (6).

That left subsection (6)(b), "hardship other than exceptional hardship". It could not be said that the disqualification constituted "exceptional hardship"; if it did, of course, the task of the trial judge and the Court of Appeal would have been easy.

Their Lordships had to ask themselves whether to have regard to the principle of sentencing policy was taking account of "hardship". If so it would have to be excluded from consideration.

In their Lordships' judgment a proper construction of the statute did not lead to that result. To have regard to the well settled policy, in other words to the public interest, was not taking account of "hardship" any more than of "exceptional hardship".

Therefore, were there, within section 19(2), circumstances not

excluded by subsection (6) - and the principle of sentencing policy in question was not so excluded - in which the court could say that it was satisfied that there were "grounds for mitigating the normal consequences of the conviction"?

The principle of sentencing policy did constitute such grounds. The judge would have been entitled in law to do that which he wished to do. However, a culpable offender like the appellant could not expect that his period of disqualification would be no longer than the period which he was likely to spend in prison.

The period of disqualification had to depend on all the facts of the particular case. The appropriate period of disqualification, reflecting sentencing policy and the circumstances of the appellant, would be not two years but one year. To that extent the appeal was allowed.

Their Lordships would add that they were at one stage troubled by the apparent anomaly that a persistent offender like the appellant

might escape the minimum obligatory disqualification on account of sentencing policy while a person of reasonably good record and character who happened to acquire the appropriate number of penalty points might find himself unable to found successfully any argument against the imposition of the minimum obligatory disqualification.

SPECTRUM

The camp on the River Kwai

● The clandestine diary of Dr Robert Hardie was compiled in various Japanese prison camps between 1942 and 1945. Written on stolen scraps of paper, hidden inside a hospital vacuum flask, it was buried in a box in the cemetery at Chungkai camp. A few weeks after the war ended, Dr Hardie recovered the papers and transcribed into a notebook his 75,000-word account of life as a medical officer among the prisoners of war building the infamous Burma-Siam railway alongside the River Kwai.

Of the 61,000 Allied prisoners who worked on the railway, 15,000 died. Yet besides the descriptions of neglect, maltreatment, sickness and death, the diary contains passages describing in detail the abundant natural life of the region - an interest also reflected in the pencil sketches and watercolours included in the edition of the diary published this week.

Born in 1904, Dr Hardie was educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh, and at Trinity College, Oxford, before entering the administrative grade of the Home Civil Service. He resigned in 1930 to read medicine at Edinburgh University, qualifying as a doctor five years later, and 1937 joined a medical practice in Kuala Lumpur. In 1939 he was commissioned as a medical officer in the 3rd Malayan Volunteer Field Ambulance. In February 1942, when Singapore fell, he was taken prisoner.

After the war he remained in Malaya until 1951, when he returned to Scotland. Between 1952 and 1967 he was successively Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Argyll; Medical Officer of Health, Berwickshire; and Medical Officer of Health under the Ministry of Overseas Development in Trelawny, Jamaica. He died in Edinburgh in 1973.

His diary was not published during his lifetime because, according to his widow, Mrs Elspeth Hardie, the more sensational books on the subject made him feel that he would be cashing in. Its publication this week marks the fortieth anniversary of the completion of the Burma-Siam line.

This first of three extracts begins when Dr Hardie had been a prisoner for more than a year; disease and death were already common place. After a five-week march up-river through difficult terrain, he and fellow captives arrived at the village of Takanun. A few kilometres further up the Kwai the hospital company was given a few tents with the indication that here it would set its treatment camp.

MAY 15, 1943

We have now been in this Takanun camp for 10 days. Already here on our arrival was 16th Battalion, living under appalling conditions, crowded in ragged leaking tents, with tattered food - nothing but rice and a modicum of what the Japanese say is dried vegetable but looks like dried seaweed. Their cooking containers are inadequate, and about half a pint of tea at the three meals of the day is all the men get - quite insufficient for men working hard in the heat all day. With the arrival of our parties, things are a trifle better. We know rather better than these new arrivals from Singapore how to make the best of bad conditions.

The accommodation for the men in this camp is hopelessly inadequate: the tents are crammed, but still men have to sleep in the open (some prefer to) or under such primitive shelters as they can improvise with bamboo and a little thatch and perhaps a groundsheet. They are being hard worked, too. They parade after a hasty breakfast about three-quarters of an hour after dawn, and go on to 6 or 7 Tokyo time (to within an hour or two of sunset) bamboo cutting, tree felling, bridge building, embankment building and making cuttings, pile driving and so on, all in blazing sun under constant pressure backed up by violence. The sickness in 16th Battalion in these six weeks has become alarming - 240 out of 400 are unable to work now. Many are desperately ill with dysentery, beriberi and pellagra, malaria and exhaustion.

There are a number of Dutch in the camp, mostly Eurasians, whose insatiable habits fill us with dismay, with scanty so prevalent and flies so numerous. We are having about four deaths a day at present. Desperately sick men are brought in from neighbouring small camps where there are no British medical officers or orderlies. These men have been kept without attention for so long that when they get here there is nothing to be done except see them die - they are so far gone that there is nothing for us to work on in attempting to save them.

Abridged from *The Burma-Siam Railway: The Secret Diary of Dr Robert Hardie*, published on October 25 by Imperial War Museum Publications, price £9.95



The Japanese are having a "speedo-speedo" - driving all possible men out to work, ruthlessly cutting down the numbers of people available to do the water carrying and cooking, and as often as not refusing to allow us a single man or spade for the needs of camp sanitation. The shortage of latrines is appalling and the condition of the camp and surroundings consequently frightful. The Nips keep demanding more men for the railway and launch into furious tirades against us because there are so many sick.

So we live, lying at night on the bare ground or on a hastily constructed frame of flattened bamboo, with no lights, our food little beyond rice and this utterly unappetizing, and probably dietetically useless, dried "seaweed". Trying to attend to numerous sick with only a few tents, and those leaky, to accommodate them in, and having in addition extra desperately ill men dumped on us from outside, brought in on Nip orders as if there were a hospital here. One is reminded of the face-saving assurance of the Japanese in Singapore when sending unfit men up to Thailand - that there was a "first-class fully equipped hospital" at Ban Pong, which turned out to be no more than squalid huts knee-deep in mud and flood-water and sewage.

Some thin starveling cattle have arrived here, brought up by the Nips to give us a meat ration. This ration, however, is very scanty - not 4oz per man gross weight including bone and offal - and quite insufficient to relieve the food situation.

The country is picturesque: we are closely surrounded by bamboo and big-tree jungle on steep slopes. Across the river, which runs brokenly in a rocky bed with deep pools, rise fine irregular limestone hills. There are rumours of cholera up the river, and bathing (and fishing) are restricted.

MAY 22, 1943

The conditions in the hospital are really terrible. The few tents are crowded, six or seven people on each side lying on roughly flattened bamboo slats. Most of them are severe dysenteries; they are helpless. There is a lot of rain now, and the tents leak. There is only one bedpan in the whole hospital, and three enamel pots. The weather is too wet to get the patients outside every day - even if there were stretchers to carry them on - and even if they could be got out we have no soap and cloths to clean the tents up. The stench and squalor of these tents is shocking: what is surprising is how the orderlies manage to keep them from becoming worse.

Nursing in any ordinary sense of the word is practically impossible. It is no wonder that some of these men despair: last night one of them tried to saw through the arteries of his wrist against a sharp edge of cut bamboo. It's a wonder more don't attempt to do away with themselves. But they need hardly trouble. When they have reached that stage they are almost certain to die anyway.

MAY 23, 1943

Still raining. There are some cases in the hospital which seem very like cholera - vomiting, watery diarrhoea, cramps, intense prostration and dehydration. With the numberless flies and the continued rain, which effectually prevents airing and cleaning the tents, the hospital is truly a sinister and depressing place. It looks as though we are in for a disastrous epidemic.

MAY 26, 1943

This is cholera all right. There have been 10 deaths already, death supervening within 36 hours of the onset of serious symptoms. The Japanese are much alarmed by this development. Their first step was to have a bamboo fence built between their part of the camp and ours. At the gate is a box, with a folded-up sack, soaked in disinfectant, lying in it. Anyone passing into the Japanese area must wipe his feet on this mat. He must also wash his hands in a bowl of disinfectant alongside.

A site on a rough slope outside the hospital area, and separated from it by a small ravine, has been designated by Colonel Yanagida and Nobusawa as the place where three tents, which they will give us to accommodate cholera cases, will be pitched. They have already given us one extra tent for suspects. If a man in the main camp gets cholera, the other occupants of his tent are quarantined - they don't go out to work, are confined to a small area but are available for jobs about the camp. By this means we have got men to dig some new latrines. But it needed a cholera epidemic to do it.

Bathing in the river has been stopped. All purchases from Siamese boats and barges, even of eggs for cooking, have been prohibited. The whole camp is to be inoculated with cholera vaccine. A Japanese pathologist from the laboratory a few kilometres down-river was here a couple of days ago. He said he had identified the vibrio in specimens. He seemed to know something of his subject.

The Nips, it will be seen, are doing everything to prevent the spread of the cholera. They have done nothing at all for the men who get it. Dr Wardener is trying to organize a supply of saline for intravenous administration, but there are great difficulties.

Cooking, which had become a little more varied before the cholera broke out - local purchase of sugar, soya bean and some frying oil (pork fat) - has been restricted again to rice and stew, to give as little chance as possible to flies to spread infection by contaminating incompletely covered food. The river has risen a good deal.

MAY 29, 1943

Fifty-six cholera cases so far, of whom 21 have died. There is still a number of very severe dysentery plus beriberi plus malaria cases. The new cholera site has been completed and the tents pitched: they are in fact already occupied. The river is rising.

JUNE 1, 1943

The total of cholera cases is now over 80, with 35 deaths. Rain is falling almost continuously and it is not possible to do anything without getting soaked. The tents leak abominably, and there are quite a number of men who have not even tents to cover them. We are told that more tents are coming, meanwhile all we have had is a pep talk by the Jap colonel, to the effect that although the country is beautiful, it is unhealthy and we must look after our health.

JUNE 2, 1943

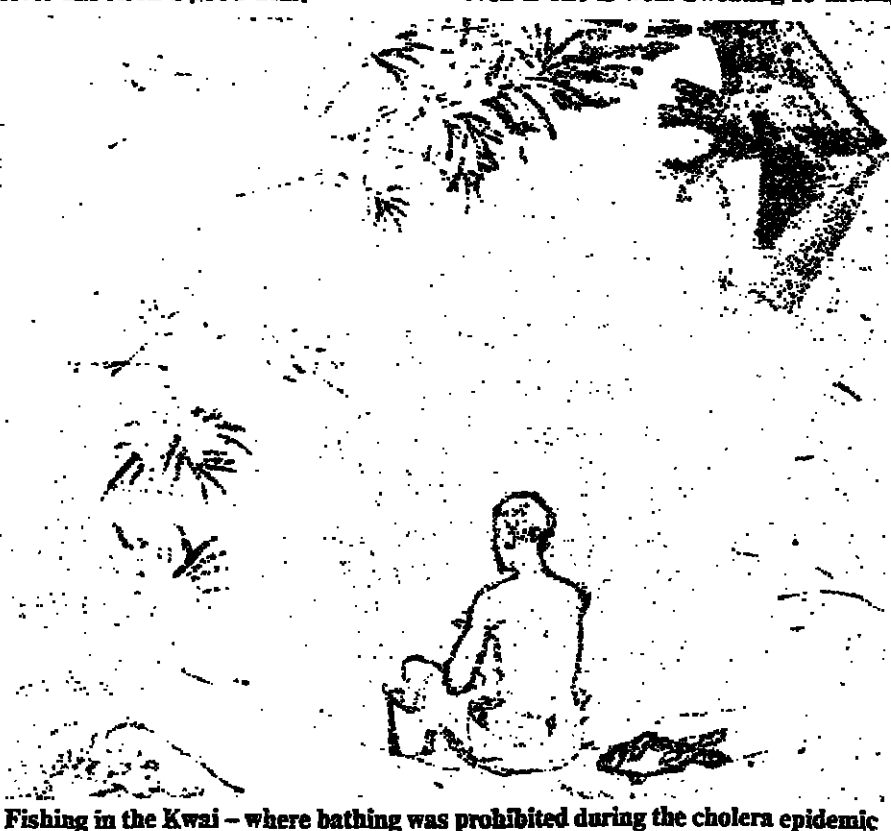
The rain goes off - the monsoon in full blast. In the mornings, mist wreathes and smokes along the hillside above us, green with its feathery bamboos and tall trees. In the soaked stillness of the air, out of the wet woods, come occasional plangent and fluty bird notes. It is wet, wet, but rather impressive and beautiful.

JUNE 7, 1943

A lot of rain still. The river has risen over 10 feet in its wide bed and is swirling down in a steady yellow rush, submerging the willow-like bushes along the banks and carrying down on its surface great matted tangles of trees and bamboos. The cholera epidemic is now tending to abate. Let's hope the anti-cholera measures will also reduce dysentery.

JUNE 13, 1943

I have been having malaria. This is my fifth day of quinine. I never had the typical ague or shiver. The first night curious cold crawling chills played up and down my spine. The headache and bone ache were severe - and, of course, a bamboo bed is not very comfortable even if one is well. Sweating so much.



Fishing in the Kwai - where bathing was prohibited during the cholera epidemic

moreover... Miles Kington

The jazz of ages

New Orleans
When I first fell in love with jazz in the mid 1950s I knew that New Orleans was the place to go to. I also knew that I had left it far too late. If jazz history was to be believed, which it sometimes is. Most of the best musicians had left the Crescent City by about 1920 to go on and make their names in Chicago, New York and the world. All that was left in New Orleans was a few old men barely keeping the tradition alive.

And now quite unexpectedly I have got to New Orleans at last, only to find that there is a great deal of jazz here, probably much more than there was in the 1950s. It isn't so much that it has revived here as that it has been brought back, mostly by young white players from America, Britain and Scandinavia, players who have so fallen in love with the music that they are prepared to lug their trumpets and clarinets half way across the world to set up home here. Even in the traditional marching bands you will spot eager young white faces among the older black ones.

This is about as extraordinary a thing as it would be if London were rediscovered as the home of music hall, with pilgrims coming to London to search out the old singers and comedians, or if young Americans flocked to London to sing traditional music hall songs in East End pubs. What makes it odder still is that jazz is not central to the lives of most people in New Orleans.

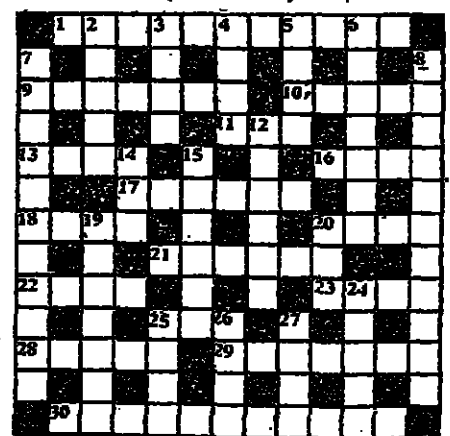
It certainly doesn't play a central part in the life of the black community, from whence it came all those years ago. I had lunch yesterday at Buster Homes, a small eating house on the edge of the French quarter which features red beans and rice, the dish beloved of Louis Armstrong. There were one or two jazz relics on the walls along with boxing posters and pictures of black celebrities but among the hundreds of records in the juke box there was only one by a jazz artist, Louis himself. All the rest were a rhythm 'n' blues, soul, modern rock, and even a few singles by British groups.

If you wander at night down Bourbon Street, the tourist strip of the French Quarter, you will hear - just as the guide book says - music coming out of almost every doorway. A lot of it is young white jazz, but a lot of it is other stuff - country music, rock 'n' roll, strip club backing tracks and, at the 500 Club, some very good all-black rhythm 'n' blues bands. On the corner of St Peter's Street you come at last to a really classy black jazz artist, trumpeter Wallace Davenport. But ironically he isn't elderly and traditional enough to get a good crowd; the spectators are all round the corner at Preservation Hall.

This stark room, looking rather like a National Trust property before renovation has started, has been devoted for the last 20 years to giving the old guys a place to play. Impossible to tell how old some of them are, but over 70 and 80 is not uncommon. You pay a dollar to get in and you may not smoke, drink, eat or even sit - only listen in reverence to the survivors doing their thing, and doing it rather well, especially in the case of clarinetist Willie Humphrey. After 40 minutes we give them a standing ovation, no other kind of ovation being possible, and are ushered out in time for the next shift.

Authenticity is not just a key word, it is now a gimmick. It suddenly occurred to me, as I stood wedged between German students and a group from Wisconsin, that by dispensing with all tourist gimmicks these old guys had packed in more visitors than any of the clip joints on Bourbon Street. Two hundred of us at a dollar a head, a fresh house every 60 minutes. That is a lot of money. I certainly hope that most of it is going to the boys in the band. After a lifetime of being left behind by jazz history they deserve it.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 177)



- ACROSS
1 R.C. permit (5,6)
2 Decapitates (7)
3 Spongy goo (5)
4 Foot digit (3)
5 Conservative (4)
6 Light snack (4)
7 Woman warrior (6)
8 Loose scum (4)
9 Rubber wheel ring (4)
10 Pointless (6)
11 Pupil diaphragm (4)
12 Profuse outpour (4)
13 Atlas mountain (4)
14 Indian light vehicle (5)
15 Not encumbered (7)
16 Apply diligently (7,4)
- DOWN
1 God's vein fluid (5)
2 Mid. Persia (4)
3 Hop kin (4)
4 Profoundly wise (4)
5 Paid-for payment (7)
6 Passing remarks (6,5)
7 Large seal (3,8)
8 Bracing air (6)
9 Noisy chatter (3)
10 Elaborate Japanese drama (6)
11 Hair knot (7)
12 Two year old sheep (3)
13 Shop staff union (1,1,1,1,1)
14 Army doctors' body (1,1,1,1,1)
15 Complete (4)
16 Cloth (4)

Solution to Saturday's prize puzzle will appear on Saturday. Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

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MODERN TIMES



A
sideways
look at
the British
way of life

FAST FOOD by Robin Young

There is nothing essentially wrong with food being fast. Edouard de Pomiane realistically subtitled his collection of 300 recipes for *Cooking in Ten Minutes* "The Adaptation to the Rhythm of our Time". His book, he explained, was for anyone - student, artist, man of action or dreamer - who had only an hour for lunch or dinner yet still wanted half an hour of peace or spare time. Fast food restaurants spread their urban picnic today, seeking to serve no less catholic a clientele.

McDonald's are on King William Street to offer breakfast to City workers streaming from London Bridge. Burger King's branch in Coventry Street pipes classical music at lunchtime. At the Wimpy, Piccadilly Circus, three of my neighbouring lunchers were reading *The Times*.

Of course our popular national dish is fast food - fish and chips. Though usually cast in only a supporting role in fast food chains, we still bolt £220 million worth a year. And what Lord Sandwich started by ordering some meat between slices of bread so his card game should not be interrupted has become a way of life for half the population.

Do not blame the Americans. Plato identified the stomach as seat of the soul, but no doubt the ancient Greeks had fast food vendors at the first Olympic Games. The hamburger came from Europe. It has its place in *Larousse Gastronomique*. When the Americans started banging it into buns at World Fairs, they were following both Lord Sandwich's aristocratic precedent and the example of Alexis Soyer, the French genius who set out to provide meals all could afford at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Soyer's army field stove was a model piece of industrial catering equipment, and his soup kitchens for the poor were a pioneering fast food chain. Yet, like McDonald's in the suburbs today, he outraged the bourgeoisie. The difference is that when refused a licence Soyer, through *amour propre*, closed down immediately. Refused planning permission today, McDonald's are likely to get up a petition and win.

Soyer's abortive scheme in 1851 was called

"The Gastronomic Symposium of All Nations". It failed then, but flourishes on British streets today. Fast foods ready at hand include spring rolls from China, samosas from India, kebabs of the Near East, Mexican tacos and Italian pizzas, as well as British breakfasts and good old baked potatoes.

A recent addition is the French croissant, overburdened with fillings at glitzy palaces such as Croissant Show opposite Charing Cross. A disgruntled customer remarks: "They will be stuffing disposable nappies next". Not necessarily - it could be Egyptian *falafel*, Japanese *gyoza*, Afghan *kurma*, or English muffins, all of which get stuffed in New York.

The public muddle fast food with junk food. That is partly because both are sold through the same outlets. Strictly junk food is that which is nutritionally valueless. Fast food does not have to be. Cola is junk. Milk shake is not.

Napoleon was not the first to insist that stomachs are what armies march on. In Britain today there is a queasiness about the things we eat and what they might be doing to the national fibre. Yet even health foods can be fast, though you might not guess it from the queues at Cranks.

Our appetites are dulled by the uncomfortable knowledge that as technology advances, food definitions become looser. Hamburgers must be at least four-fifths meat (and 100 per cent, if so

described), yet a "jumbo burger" could be only one tenth meat. And meat itself can include the feet, intestines, lungs, oesophagus, rectum, spinal cord, spleen, stomach, testicles and udders of the animal, without unseemly mention of the fact.

It is technologically possible to make protein from any source taste of anything from beef to smoked salmon. Jack Tolley, Liverpool chemist, is famous in the food technology trade for his achievement in converting his own excreta into rich, palatable pudding.

The fast food chains apply rigorous quality control (up to three days' laboratory tests on each batch of meat), yet are themselves not innocent of the legalized debasement of food terminology. Remember that calling an egg "farm fresh" or cheese "cheddar" tells you nothing. But then the pit-stop caterers operate in a highly competitive world and it remains true, if sad, that the convenience foods they peddle enable many to have better tucker than they could, or would, prepare for themselves.

I am a founder-member of the British Academy of Gastronomies. Don't laugh. Temporarily, I volunteered to become our man in the fast food restaurants. On your behalf I went to the urban picnic, armed with notebook and stopwatch, to evaluate the chains on three counts - value for money, efficiency, and standard of food.

Penny Perriek

Parliament as milady's chamber



Some of the women I most admire are staunch supporters of the 300 Group, the organization that is determined to get 300 women into the House of Commons.

Share this aim, but after reading the group's newsletter I feel gloomy about its method.

For it seems to me that the people best suited to be politicians are those who fervently believe in some brand of political philosophy, whether it be that of Mr Roger Scruton or that of Mr Tariq Ali. The 300 Group appears to be urging women to set foot in the political arena first and decide on their preferred ideology later. Its membership form asks applicants to state their areas of experience and special interests, but not whether they are convinced socialists, Conservatives or devoted fans of the two Davids.

When aspiring male politicians look around for a political party which would best serve their own advancement in much the same way as they decide which car to buy, we describe them as shabby opportunists. Seeing 300 women MPs take their place in the chamber would make my heart leap up in joy, unless I saw on all 300 faces that same dead-eyed, tense-lipped expression that currently mark out the male MP whose sole aim is self promotion.

Mrs Thatcher has sometimes been accused of not understanding the problems of women who want more of a say in public life. If this is true, it may be because she cannot actually visualize this sort of problem. She never had much difficulty becoming a politician, since she saw herself as first and foremost a Tory and lastly, and least importantly, a woman. This lack of sexual self-consciousness went down well. She was so busy proving to everyone that she was a better Conservative than anyone else that selection committee chairmen probably forgot to notice that she was not a man.

The other aspect of the 300 Group that makes me uneasy is the way it has taken on the role of finishing school. It advises members on how to speak better, be better. "There's no point in saying 'I'm me; take me as I am' if what you really want is to be a more able (and a more interesting person) than you are now", writes one contributor sternly in the group's newsletter, implying that there is something dreadfully wrong with women in their natural state.

Members are also invited, at £10 a head, to a fashion show given by Susie Gold, who runs the very stylish and very expensive Wardrobe shops. I think this is going about politics the wrong way. The right way is to boost women's fragile egos; to make them feel that it is perfectly reasonable for them to try to become MP just the way they are, even if their voices wouldn't get them into RADA and their clothes don't suggest Bond Street.

Did the Prime Minister have elocution lessons? Well, yes, she did, but the effect was so disastrously how-now-brown-cow that she had to be de-elocuted later. Was she always suitably dressed? Not at all: she even turned up at her Methodist wedding in glaring blue velvet and a funny hat. Did it make any difference? Probably not.

An ideal House of Commons should be perfectly happy to accept Worzel Gummidge like Shirley Williams and Dennis Skinner and gorgeous fashionplates like Humphrey Atkins and Barbara Castle. An ideal pressure group to attract more women into politics should reach out to all women the ones wearing what a critical colleague calls "lesbian, single-parent dungarees" as well as those who covet a wardrobe from Wardrobe.

The House of Commons needs more women more than a film starlet needs attendant paparazzi. It may be the best club in the world but you only have to be inside the place for three minutes to feel steeped in the cheery, depressing atmosphere of a second-rate boys' boarding school. Three hundred women MPs could whisk away this impression of something timeless and very, very boring but only if they were confident enough to bring their true selves and the ideas they stand for into that lacklustre debating chamber.

What really worries me is that if women start agreeing to the cosmetic changes to their personalities as advocated by the 300 Group, they might turn themselves into something that's merely a poor imitation of a man. And the House of Commons certainly does not need any more of those.

I have long suspected that Robert Carrier's wooden spoon is a magic wand in disguise. How else explains that the food-processor he uses turns out quivering mousses and shiny-topped flans and pâtés as intricately decorated as a Roman mosaic, when the identical model which I own does nothing more spectacular than spew out scalloped carrots? The latest Carrier televised enterprise proves my suspicions correct. Currently promoting the meat products of a certain supermarket chain, Mr Carrier picks a medium-sized joint of beef from the counter, points out its rich colour and bids us stay around to see the cooked result. The next shot shows the roasted joint - looking a whole lot larger than it did uncooked. I tell you, this man is magic.

The minute stakes



Fingers out for the urban picnic; representatives of seven fast food chains proffer their wares. McDonald's refused to be photographed in their competitors' company.

FLYING CARPET
Wendy's: Born 1969, eight restaurants.

Wendy's claims "the fastest growth record of all time in the food service industry", but reached Britain only in 1980. Its restaurants are all company owned. These are the hamburger restaurants with carpet on the floor, not in the bun. The intention is that their burgers should be "a discernibly better product".

Patties (square, not round, and nothing less than a quarter-pound) are prepared on the premises, not bulk-bought frozen, but do not taste of anything much. The claim to have it ready for you to any of 256 permutations "in no time at all" is almost literally true. The target time for filling buns to order is 12 seconds.

No time faults on my visits, but they did get my orders wrong twice. Plus points include moveable bentwood chairs, living plants, a no-smoking area and pavement tables where possible. Relaxed atmosphere, but staff rather slow to clear away.

Value	7
Efficiency	7
Flavour	7

PIZZA THE ACTION
Pizza Hut: Born 1958, 28 licensed restaurants.

If pizza is fast food, it has to be the slowest in the world, because each is cooked to order and that takes, in this chain, 12 to 15 minutes. On the other hand the restaurants are prompt with starters (soup, pasta, garlic bread) and you can phone in advance.

Pizza Hut worldwide serves a million meals a day. Started in Britain in 1973 its restaurants are fully licensed with waitress service and it is expanding as a joint venture between PepsiCo and Whitbread. It offers a choice of deep pan or traditional crispy pizzas in three sizes, with a choice of 13 permutable toppings, plus salad bar, sandwiches, and various desserts.

Even with modern technology, more cooking skill is required in pizzas than in the other food operations - in my tests Pizza Hut's branches performed consistently well. One hope for the future is that they might open more Pizza Stands in pubs.

Value	5
Efficiency	5
Flavour	5

FILLING STATION
Spud Ulike: Born 1974, 31 shops.

The fast food subsidiary of the British School of Motoring, an all-British franchise, was launched in Edinburgh. The shops have pine and green decor (four in London are company-owned) selling baked jacket potatoes with more than 25 hot or cold fillings (also available as less messy side orders). They use convection ovens, not micro-wave. Prices from 70p to £1.55 for prawn cocktail spud.

They quote Audrey F-plan Eyton extolling "the nutritious and low-calorie aspects of the baked potato" and boast that in 1981, Egon Ronay rated them above McDonald's, Wendy's, Wimpy and Kentucky Fried Chicken (without mentioning that he put them below Julie's Pantry). My own visits were complicated by changes which made nonsense of the menu. Baked apples are off (F-plan home-made flapjacks instead). A machine had run out of lemonade essence and a customer had to tell them.

The shops now aim to serve customers within one minute. The maximum keeping time for cooked chicken pieces is 1½ hours. The company uses central supplies and carries out anonymous inspections.

Value	8
Efficiency	4
Flavour	6

SEASONED CAMPAIGNER
Wimpy: Born 1955, 450 restaurants.

Introduced to Britain by J. Lyons, Wimpy is still by far Britain's largest franchise food operation. But only 50 restaurants, opened since takeover by United Biscuits, have fast food and takeaway counter service. Of these, 18 are company owned.

Buns, patties, choice of meals, standards of cleanliness and service have all changed for the better. The counter service restaurants are bright, airy, with abundant living greenery and smart livery. The Wimpy is 100 per cent forequarter cow beef with suet added to bring fat content up to 22 per cent. Unlike American competitors it has seasoning (secret formula). Larger sizes come in wheatmeal buns.

The chicken in a bun is a success - it took 18 months to develop, but it does taste of chicken and the batter stays on. The shops reckon to keep no customer waiting more than four minutes. Average times in my tests were 1 min 24sec.

Value	7
Efficiency	8
Flavour	7

SECRET SERVICE
Kentucky Fried Chicken: Born (Britain) 1965, 350 shops.

Kentucky Fried Chicken, coated in Colonel Sanders' secret recipe of 11 herbs and spices, is easily our largest takeaway operation (47 company-owned shops in London). It has been "repositioning" its restaurants recently, which means trying to improve them. The most obvious effects are better portions, bargain buckets and cheaper meals such as chicken sandwiches.

Overdependent on young men going home from the pub, it is now "marketing to the family". The current slogan is: "Good food was never such a great value". The chicken is, of course, still said to be "finger-lickin' good", but these days you get a moist and lemon-scented tissue to clean up with as well.

The shops now aim to serve customers within one minute. The maximum keeping time for cooked chicken pieces is 1½ hours. The company uses central supplies and carries out anonymous inspections.

Value	7.5
Efficiency	6
Flavour	8

BATTLE ROYAL
Burger King: Born (Britain) 1978, 9 stores.

America's No. 2 hamburger chain has been trading in Britain nearly five years, but has taken time getting its act together. This is the home of the Whopper, "broiled, never fried" and so, supposedly, less fatty, and they claim: "It's not just big Mac. You know when you've got a Whopper". It does taste better, and keeps better in its cardboard box. Moreover the service system (microphones to the make-up department) enables staff to modify the order (eg omit mayonnaise) swiftly.

They aim to turn the customer round at the counter in about 45 seconds but were slower in my tests, and got into tangles twice. The restaurants are big and smart, staff moderately well-disposed, but the greenery plastic. Coffee better than usual, but they really think the British drink tea through a straw?

Burger King estimates that 60 per cent of customers are regulars to any one chain.

Value	6
Efficiency	7
Flavour	7.5

PUSHCHAIR PULL-IN
McDonald's: Born 1955, 116 restaurants.

The company that sets the standards for the industry by its success. McDonald's arrived in England in 1974. All its 116 restaurants are company-owned, modern and with attractive decor, and none has ever closed. The company sells a thousand million hamburgers every four months.

The chain practically eats children. Britain seems full of middle-class parents protesting that they only go to McDonald's because the kids drag them there. Two-year-olds are seen climbing out of pushchairs to pull their mothers in.

Service creates more impression of urgency and enthusiasm than anywhere else, with emphasis on team effort. Great consistency between branches. Of the food only the Big Mac, with "special" sauces, tastes of anything much, and though no hamburger is held more than ten minutes the buns tended to be as soggy as nappies. Slogan: "At McDonald's we have time for you".

Value	8
Efficiency	8
Flavour	4

FLAVIA CORKSCREW'S GOOD FOOD GUIDE

FLAVIA IS VISITED BY THE FAMILY SOLICITOR



FLAVIA TELLS THE NEWS TO GERARD MANLY

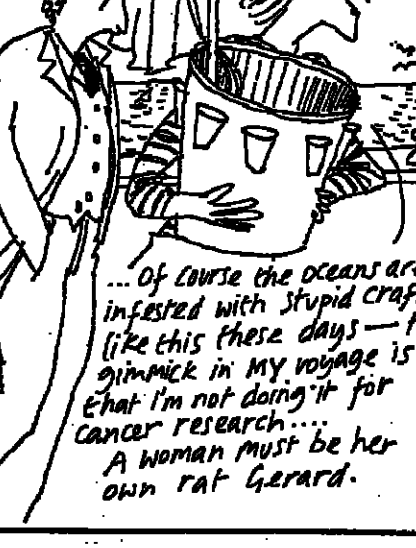
I plan to be the first person to sail round the world in a waste paper basket!



Specialized adapted of course. Stabilized with polystyrene coffee cups and Sponsored by Sellotape...



Of course the oceans are infested with stupid craft like this these days - the gimmick in my voyage is that I'm not doing it for cancer research. A woman must be her own rat Gerard.



GERARD & KATE WAVE UNTIL SHE IS BUT A DOT ON THE HORIZON



THE TIMES DIARY

Hopping to Reagan

President Reagan is hardly a connoisseur of real ale but that has not prevented a brewery near Nottingham from using his picture to promote its beer. Fred Fielding, the White House counsel, says the photograph of the President used on beer labels is in the public domain. The promotion campaign carries the legend: "He might be President of the most powerful nation on earth... but he's never had a pint of Mansfield." Perhaps the brewery should send a keg or two to the White House for the President to sample. He could always pass the stuff on to the White House press corps if he decided that Budweiser was more to his taste.

Courting disaster

Unwanted scenes of disorder are expected in the High Court this morning because the Heidelberg machine that trundles out *The Daily Cause List* of the Supreme Court is out of action and likely to remain so for another day or two. Solicitors and barristers, responsible for directing their principals to the courts in which they will perform on the day, will have to rely on photocopies of a handwritten script, an unsatisfactory arrangement that has already led to queues and frayed tempers since the machine packed up on Thursday.

Cadenza

Our chief music critic, Paul Griffiths, is a busy man; this month alone sees the publication of two of his books, plus his chapter on the twentieth century in the new *Oxford Companion to Music*. The other additions to the Griffiths oeuvre are a biography of Gustav Mahler and a history of the string quartet, in which the author reflects that the form may have died some time during the First World War, but it has since "been reborn in a myriad of different guises". Countering Pierre Boulez's well-known dictum that the quartet is "a thing of the past", Griffiths cites two dozen examples that have surfaced since Boulez wrote his own 35 years ago, including Brian Ferneyhough's second string quartet of 1980, the fascination of which "lies partly in its incomprehensibility".

Getting the bird

On the doors of St John the Baptist church in Suffolk, Norfolk, is a sign exhorting parishioners to "please keep both doors shut and save birds' lives". Pamela Fawcett, the rector's wife, rejects indignantly any suggestion that reference is meant to the Rev Harold Davidson, her husband's most famous predecessor, who came to grief as a result of his pioneering work among young girls in London and was mauled to death by a lion in Blackpool in 1937. In fact, such signs are not uncommon along the north Norfolk coast, where casualties are high among birds that fly into churches and then cannot get out again. "Why can't we be known for the beauty of the church and the surrounding National Trust lands?" adds Mrs Fawcett with a sigh.

BARRY FANTONI



"Haven't you got any wholemeal?"

Refuge

Wildlife magazine's current issue celebrates 2 marriages to the distinguished Natural History Unit of the BBC in Bristol. The handsome, small-circulation monthly, more respected than read since its founding 20 years ago as *Animals*, has limped along precariously through several changes of ownership and at least one near closure. The union with the BBC will bring with it a welcome dowry of financial security and, insists Rosamund Kidman-Cox, the editor, will not compromise the publication's claim to be "the only independent publication on the British bookshelves devoted to international wildlife and conservation".

● The Observer has sent me one of its special offers: a set of three pairs of scissors. It tells me to "clip the coupons inside this envelope with our special set of scissors and snip £6 off the manufacturer's recommended price". I'm still trying to work it out.

Philippa Gili was the model for Britannia when her father Reynolds Stone, the designer and engraver, designed the present £5 and £10 notes. In turn Philippa has used her own two children as the models for her children's book, *The Trick That Went Wrong*, a story set in Regency Bath which is to be published this week by Andre Deutsch. Stone, who died in 1979 at the age of 70, designed among many other masterpieces *The Times* masthead.

PHS

The NHS must unite and fight

by Peter Draper

The manpower cuts at the NHS have created a new situation. The British Medical Association at one end of the spectrum and the National Union of Public Employees at the other are agreeing with each other, and many Conservative doctors and members of health authorities are openly objecting to government policy.

The new factor is not that the NHS is being destroyed - damage is not destruction - but that doctors, nurses and administrators, the middle managers who until now have made the best of a bad job, are criticizing the Department of Health and Social Services. People who previously felt they were taking unpopular but necessary decisions to speed a rather savage rationalization of services now feel that they are being treated as puppets in an unsavoury pantomime.

There is no mandate for the manpower cuts and they are manifestly doctrinaire and damaging to clinical care. For example, many authorities are being instructed to dismiss regular nursing staff but they are allowed to take on the same number of agency nurses the next day. Similarly, even where authorities have shown that they can make savings of up to half a million pounds a year by taking on extra staff to cut overtime, they are not allowed to do so. The manager's freedom to make consistent decisions has been abolished.

Government Newspeak for the NHS, such as "efficiency savings", "revised cash limits" or "revised manpower targets" has bred cynicism over and above the direct and disruptive effects of cuts. Pay increases well

below inflation (and below pay rises in the private sector) rankled and demoralized but these and other tribulations were largely borne because it seemed impossible to defeat the argument "we support the NHS but the economy is in trouble".

However, making doctors and nurses unemployed when there is clearly vital work to be done, or substituting agency for regular nurses, can be seen as progress only by those who have sustained significant brain damage from excessive exposure to third-rate economists and their hacks. Meanwhile, the Government goes soft on tax avoidance and evasion and chooses to use our money in increasingly questionable ways.

If the manpower cuts have created a different political ball game, what will be the outcome? There are three main possibilities.

The Government could perform a U-turn. Second, there could be strikes and in-fighting in the profession, which could then slowly fizzle out. The third and most likely possibility is that the NHS will realize its power and its value and increasingly dissociate itself from the DHSS and its ministers. In contrast to the myths and party propaganda, many health service staff and managers are nowadays aware that for all its faults, the record of the NHS, compared with health systems in other countries, is impressive.

Health services in countries such as the US, West Germany and Sweden need a slice

of the gnp that is about half as big again as ours. Similarly, the 21 per cent administrative overheads in the US, are no less than four times the percentage of ours.

It is an open secret that the many difficulties the health service is experiencing are not intrinsic to the NHS. The underlying problems are the British economy and current economic policy. It seems inevitable that organizations such as the BMA, the Royal College of Nursing and the National Association of Health Authorities will start to make themselves heard in public debates about economic policy.

What a former editor of *The Lancet* called the "greater medical profession" - the essential supporting staff as well as the more visible (and better rewarded) front-liners, particularly the doctors - has yet to recognize its strength. The even bigger health community, which includes the thousands of members of health authorities and community health councils, hospital friends and so on, is not yet a coalition but is rapidly being encouraged to realize that it could be.

A key issue seems to be whether the greater medical profession will listen to those who tell it that its only option is to strike, or to those who advise it to use its brains and other resources to create new forms of effective representation and citizenship - and meanwhile to take pride in running the NHS better than ever, despite the sabotage.

Dr Draper is director of the Unit for the Study of Health Policy based at Guy's Hospital Medical School.

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Bernard Levin: The way we live now



Deedes: dangerous irony; the Bishop of Bath and Wells: meddling; Mr Parkinson and Mrs Thatcher: a mercy they didn't elope

She was poor but she was honest. Victim of the squire's game. First 'er loved 'er, then 'er left 'er. And she lost 'er 'onest name.

The one figure in *Affaire Parkinson* for whom I have no sympathy at all is Sir William Deedes, Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. I could have told him (but he didn't ask me) that the gentle irony of his paper's leading article ("... the moral logic... that a quiet abortion is greatly to be preferred to a scandal... hardly seems a moral advance") was, like all irony, a weapon more dangerous to the hand wielding it than to anyone against whom it might be directed. It took Miss Keays a mere three days to work out a method of misunderstanding it (the technique included excising the last sentence altogether), and there she was as white as Mother Teresa of Calcutta. How much better to be the Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, who claims that when two of his reporters confronted Miss Keays last August she refused to comment but told them "your manner has been most polite". (The *Mirror's* Editor is far too modest; what she actually said to the men she found on her doorstep, not to say running her car, was "Please allow me to commend the tact and discretion with which you have conducted yourselves, for you both stand four-square in the finest traditions of the British popular press: not for nothing, evidently, is the motto of your great newspaper *Honor est primum virtutis*". I thank you from the bottom of my heart, in which there will always be a warm corner for two such *preux chevaliers*, surely the Roland and Oliver of Fleet Street.")

See 'er riding in 'er kerriage. In the Park, all brave and gay. All the nobs and nobby persons Come to pass the time of day. Then - while we are still clearing the undergrowth in preparation for the autumn sowing - there was Miss Keays's friend and confidante, Mrs Colvin, who asked the *Daily Mail*, in discussing the statement which, published in the middle of the Conservative Party Conference, brought Mr Parkinson down, that "The timing was not significant and I'm certain she had no intention of causing Cecil and the Government the maximum of embarrassment". The cynical may jeer, but my own researches have revealed that Miss Keays was not even aware that the Conference was going on, indeed she did not know that Mr Parkinson was a leading government minister, having been under the impression that he was either Professor Parkinson of Parkinson's Law, or Michael Parkinson of television fame, and was astonished to discover in what circles she had been moving, though not so astonished as she was when she learned too late that he had held all her life - are not found under gooseberry bushes.

In the rich man's arms she flutters. Like a bird with broken wing. First 'er loved 'er, then 'er left 'er. And she 'asn't got no ring.

As for Mr Parkinson, he seems to have established a novel principle for the ordering of his domestic arrangements, viz. that he decides to share his life with whichever lady has spoken sharply to him most recently, I suppose it's a mercy that after the dramatic 2 am meeting in

Anyway, since when did MP stand for moral perfection?

the Thatchers' Blackpool suite he didn't announce that he was going to elope with the Prime Minister.

Finally, there is the Bishop of Bath and Wells. I must say firmly that I am sick and tired of clergymen meddling in matters which are none of their concern; an English Bishop's duties, in the field of public comment, are to denounce NATO, complain that the levels of Supplementary Benefit are too low and demand that there should be no cuts in NHS funding, not to go about pronouncing on questions of morality, which are entirely outwith a clergyman's competence and should be left to newspaper columnists.

As far as this newspaper columnist is concerned, no moral view of the rights and wrongs of the private relationship between Mr Parkinson and Miss Keays will be expressed. She has taken her revenge, and although it is my belief that vengeance is at once the most sterile and the most corrosive of all human pursuits, not even excluding war itself, she is not obliged to share my view, and in any case neither I nor anyone else, other than the two people concerned, can know enough of what happened between them to be able to pronounce with episcopal confidence where justice lies, or indeed what, in this context, it consists of.

But because Mr Parkinson is a politician and was a Cabinet minister the affair inevitably takes on a different aspect, and a different kind of question can be asked: what is, and what should be, the relationship between a public man's public life and his private life? That question, by one of those immutable laws of history that Sir Karl Popper so unwisely scorns, is asked every 10 years in this country. It was asked in 1963, the *annus horribilis* that began at Clevedon and ended with a new Prime Minister, in 1973, when the focus of attention was not a stately home but a house of ill-fame in the Maida Vale, and now once more, I wonder whose turn it will be in 1993? (It won't be Gammara, anyway, thank God.)

There is an unspoken premise (it is unspoken because if it were to be spoken it would at once collapse under the weight of its own absurdity) that politicians must be subject to more stringent rules of personal conduct than the rest of us because they are "looked up to" and must therefore "set an example". Countless millions of would-be sinners, it seems, are held in check by the thought that if the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment and Local Government would never make a pass at the *au pair* it would become lesser mortals to do so, and that if, on the other hand, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries should in the absence of his wife be found in the attic, trouserless and not alone, it

will signal to the nation that all standards have been abolished and the very beasts of the field are no longer safe from the effects of human depravity.

I am, as is well known, much given to hyperbole in the course of making a point with emphasis. I must therefore make clear that I am not employing this useful device when I say that in all my life I have never met any persons, in any trade or profession, whether educated or uneducated, sophisticated or naive, rich or poor, old, young or middle-aged, who would seek objective standards of moral behaviour, against which to measure their own, or who would find otherwise than ridiculous or unintelligible the thought that they should.

See 'im in the 'ouse of Commons. Pazzin' laws to put down crime. While the girl that 'e 'as ruined Picks 'er way through mud and slime.

Note that the public-morality nonsense applies only to politicians; captains of industry may swap wives without being obliged to leave office, and of actors it seems positively expected that they should. Of course, those who are *ex officio* charged with the care of souls, like bishops, or with literally laying down the law, like judges, must observe certain rules that do not apply to the rest of us, because something real and important would be damaged if too many of them fell too conspicuously from grace. But that is the price a man pays for wearing a full-bottomed wig or lawn sleeves; who started the rumour that politicians are in a similar position, and whoever he was, why didn't he notice that it isn't true?

The politicians are themselves very substantially to blame. The way so many of them - most, I think - behave in the scramble to put those two magic letters after their name has had the effect of elevating their trade so far above the generality of mankind that it has taken on a spurious but superficially plausible appearance of purity and nobility. This is dangerously enhanced by the way MPs tend to talk about the House of Commons; anyone who has ever heard them, towards the end of a debate on some matter of national importance, congratulating themselves on the high seriousness with which they have approached the matter in their speeches, will know exactly what the word *hubris* means. Indeed, I believe that the prurient public interest in political scandals (demanded of, and supplied by, the press) is largely based on a healthy understanding of the mythical quality of the politicians' collective view of themselves and their function, and the relief with which a politician's fall is received is attributable to the doubly deplorable, but surely understandable,

feeling that the pride that goeth before a fall makes the fall not only inevitable but deserved.

When they dragged 'er from the river. Water from 'er clothes they wrung. For they thought that she was drowned. 'Bout the corpse sat up and sung -

It is surely ironic beyond the dreams of the *Daily Telegraph* leadership that Britain, the originator of representative parliamentary government, should be afflicted more than any other nation with the claim that public men are different from private ones. Democracy wouldn't even work if that were true, if we selected our political representatives from some pool of special beings resembling Miss Beale and Miss Buss ("... are different from us"), for we must be able to see ourselves mirrored in our politicians; as I have said more than once, in a democracy we are all politicians, and the day we forget it will be a black day for us all. We do have to remember that it is not we who have to hold in view the hideous fate of the MP who in savagely moral terms denounced the central figure of the 1963 events, only to be revealed years later as a paid parliamentary hireling of Mr Poulson; it is not always true, after all, that those who are most zealous in the reproach of vice are whited sepulchres themselves. But we do have to remember that it is inevitable for our politicians to suffer from the same frailties as the rest of us, because they are the same people as the rest of us; the truth about public men is that they are only private men whose lives are lived in public.

Mr Parkinson had to resign when he did, for two reasons. First, he had become an embarrassment and a liability to the Government; however he got into that position, it was thus, and the consequences inevitably followed. But the second reason was firmly rooted in the ancient hypocrisy: in the false and tainted assumption that a politician's loves or lusts are more culpable than those of a butcher, a baker or a candlestick-maker. They are not, but too many politicians have wanted the public to think too well of them, and too many newspapers have cashed in on the two-pronged fallacy: the result can be seen in the outer darkness into which Mr Parkinson has now been cast. One day we shall all grow out of it: we shall be able to see a domestic tragedy for no more and no less than what it is, and to evince no pretended surprise that it should have taken place around a politician. I don't know what the mass-circulation papers will do for a living, then, but that is not my problem. Let us resolve to remember that the world and its inhabitants are not perfect, and are most unlikely to become perfect by next Friday, and to remember also that "in the course of justice none of us should seek salvation". Meanwhile, it must remain true, alas, that people who live in glass houses should undress in the dark.

- It's the rich what 'as the pleasure. It's the poor what gets the blame. It's the same the 'ole world over. Ain't it all a bleedin' shame?

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Gerald Kaufman

Why disasters may not lose elections

At a low point during the lifetime of one of the postwar Conservative governments, the following conversation took place between Harold Wilson, Labour MP for Hyndon, and Sir Ian Fraser, Conservative MP for Morecambe and Lunesdale.

Wilson: "Labour would win easily if there was a general election now."

Fraser: "But there isn't going to be a general election now."

All governments go through bad patches. Few governments, provided they can rely on a stable parliamentary majority, choose to call a general election while in the middle of a bad patch. Quite apart from the abrupt departure of Mr Cecil Parkinson, covered in gore, this government at present certainly has its specifically political troubles. Open any newspaper and you will find these difficulties listed in denouncing array: trouble in the economy; cuts in the health service; humiliating miscalculation of the Commons' vote on capital punishment; the near loss of safe Penrith in a recent by-election; the Tory lead in the latest Harris opinion poll cut to only 3 per cent.

"What! Will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?" we can almost hear Mrs Thatcher declaiming with Machbeth. The problem for the Opposition is that this parliament is not in its fifth year but in its fifth month, and that meanwhile the Prime Minister is borne up by a Commons majority of 143 over all other parties.

"Ah," we are told, "but the electorate has a long memory." We are admonished that, in the words of another Shakespeare play, *Twelfth Night*, the whittling of time brings in his revenges. Does he? Always? Five months into the last parliament there was trouble in the economy with value added tax increased from 8 to 15 per cent, minimum lending rate up to 14 per cent and inflation up by more than 6 per cent. There was a row of health service cuts, with prescription charges almost doubled. A Tory House of Commons had kicked its pro-hanging Prime Minister in the teeth, rejecting capital punishment by a majority of 199. The first by-election of the parliament had shown an anti-Government swing of 5 per cent. Opinion poll ratings gave Labour a lead of 6.3 per cent.

Within a further six months Labour, favoured by a swing of 12.9 per cent, was to fall by only 430 votes to gain the safe Conservative seat of Southend, East. Yet when the general election eventually came, at a time chosen by the Prime Minister to suit herself, the Conservatives, despite their many tribulations, swept back to power. In Southend, East their majority returned to its former level, with the Labour

candidate this time a poor third, a victim of the new era of three-party politics.

Three-party politics still continue to "help Mrs Thatcher". Labour's encouraging showing in the latest opinion polls has not come about because of a net swing from the Conservatives. The Harris poll puts the Tory vote at the same level, 42 per cent, as in June's general election. What has happened is that the impetus of Neil Kinnock's election as party leader has won over substantial numbers of SDP/Liberal Alliance voters to support the Labour Party.

That development, as far as it goes, is certainly encouraging to Labour. However, Mrs Thatcher won her huge parliamentary majority last June, despite Labour outnumbering Tory voters by three million. It does not matter to the Prime Minister if she continues to be supported by only a minority of the electorate, provided that her minority remains larger than either of the two minorities.

In the October 1979 opinion poll Labour achieved a 6.3 per cent lead over the Tories' 40.9 per cent, because the Liberal support stood at only 10 per cent. Today Labour is 3 per cent behind the Tories' 42 per cent, because the Alliance has maintained a rating of 18 per cent. In three-party politics it is no longer enough for the government to be unpopular. That government, though outnumbered by opposition voters, goes on winning elections unless the principal opposition party either positively wins support from the government's voters, or massively erodes the support of the second opposition party, or, best of all, does both.

Mr Kinnock's leadership has begun propitiously by clearly establishing Labour as the principal opposition party. He and Roy Hattersley are regaining votes for Labour because they have been able, with the assistance of their conference, to show the electorate the acceptable face of socialism. If over the coming months they can consolidate that achievement, there is a serious prospect that Alliance supporters, anxious to defeat the Tories, will in ever-increasing numbers come over to Mr Kinnock as the man who can get rid of Mrs Thatcher.

In that case, he can confidently look forward to becoming Prime Minister at the end of this parliament. Otherwise, pavements littered with banana skins will not prevent the Tories from profiting from the split anti-Conservative majority and winning again.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Gorton.

Anne Sofer

Playing about with peace

Pity the poor Notting Hill Adventure Playground Association. Or rather pity them no longer because their problem has for the time being been resolved - but learn from their story.

The association was the first of its kind. It was established in 1960 in response to the Notting Hill riots and over the years it has done a great deal of valuable work, establishing as well as the adventure playground a community centre, a youth club, a play group and facilities for the elderly. It operates in an area around the Golborne Road which is, as it says itself and as the world is pretty much aware, an area "of high social and economic deprivation with a number of large ethnic minority communities".

Over the last two years the association has organized annual festivals for the community. This year, to have arisen as a natural consequence of its other activities and has been organized, I have been told, with imagination and skill. The trouble started when the organizers of the festival decided to apply to the GLC for a grant - as all voluntary associations do these days. It already has a grant from its own borough, Kensington and Chelsea, but the trend of official advice now is strongly in favour of applying for multiple funding.

(However small the amount, these organizations are encouraged to apply for money from the borough and from the GLC and from the Arts Council and from local business and charities. I am not sure what the point is, except to make us, the donors, feel that the load is being shared and that the seal of approval has already been granted.) "Oh well, if the Arts Council is backing it, we may as well chip in..." Is this rational? However, rational or not, that is the way it is and the argument is beside the point of this particular story.

Having failed to get a grant from the GLC the first year because it applied too late, the association came back, in good time, in 1983. Now 1983 is, of course, the GLC's "Peace Year" and a helpful officer in the GLC grants department suggested to the association that the grant might be more easily come by if the proposed festival contained the word "peace" in it. So, obediently, the association rechristened their festival the "1983 Golborne Children's Peace Festival" - though from a description of what was laid on it does seem to have made much difference, children's festivals being fairly peaceable affairs (or at least one hopes so) in any case.

In the event, the GLC community arts sub-committee turned it down - for whatever reason: perhaps that particular budget was already overspent, or members knew of some other more deserving cases. So the "peace" gambit, alas, failed. And here disaster struck. As a

result of the insertion of the word "peace", funding of the association from the (High Tory) Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea was put in jeopardy. The borough in fact was so incensed that it refused to advertise the festival in its own libraries, nurseries and playgroups.

As a result, although the festival went ahead and was hugely successful, it accumulated a deficit of £700. It repaid to the GLC, which - in a most gentlemanly way and with all-party agreement on the nod - decided to make good the deficit. Let no organization suffer (we thought in silent embarrassment) from innocently bearing the stigma of the GLC's crazy ideas. So I am happy to report that this particular enterprise is now out of the red.

But what are these poor voluntary groups to do in future? Is there any way in which the Notting Hill Adventure Playground Association could have labelled its festival so as to appeal to both political camps? Could it have dropped a bottle of Snow-pac on the word "peace" without submitting it to Kensington and Chelsea? Or hastily translated it to the "Children's Pax Britannica Festival"? Created a logo suggestive of a V for victory one way up, and a CND sign the other.

And next year it is going to be worse. Nineteen eighty-four - whatever the significance of those numbers to the rest of us - is the GLC's "Anti-Racist Year". Now Tories don't go a bundle on "anti-racism", though they can be persuaded to support "racial harmony". But racial harmony is regarded as a cop-out by the hard-line anti-racists, and I'm not sure what priority applications with that tag will attract. It's all very difficult.

In the US in the 1970s a trade of "proposal writers" grew up and flourished. In an era of great federal hand-outs, groups actually hired public relations firms to submit their cases in language that would appeal to the handers-out. Now here is a job for proposal writers of an ambidextrous ingenuity: writing applications for grant-aid that include all the necessary buzz-words to appeal to a Conservative borough, a Labour GLC, a benign but cautious Arts Council and assorted Christian charities all at the same time, and without offending any of them. I offer the idea - free - to anyone who wants to organize a good Christmas competition.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for Camden, St Pancras North.

Correction

The quotation attributed to Maurice Cowling in James Curran's column last week is from an essay by Peregrine Woodhead. It should have read: "Authority should be based on freedom." Local authorities have been free to levy rates since 1601, not 1501, as printed.



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PEACE WEEK

This is to be the week of the Peace movements. They hope that their demonstrations will cause western governments to abandon, or at least postpone, the planned introduction of cruise and Pershing missiles to West Europe. If the demonstrations fail to achieve that, as fail they must, the protesters will then seek to picket the missile bases and make them inoperative, according to Mr E. P. Thompson, speaking on the radio yesterday.

It is because the realistic assumption must be that the demonstrations will fail to deflect the alliance from its declared policy that divisions are now emerging among the peace groups. Should their subsequent tactics be violence or non-violence? The logic of demonstrations points to violence if the spectacle of non-violent demonstration fails to change political decisions. That logic springs not from a belief by the protesters that they can literally prevent the missiles' operation by force, but because it is violent demonstrations which attract most publicity and it is publicity that they are after. Only with some extra publicity for a cause that has not prevailed through argument can they undermine the will-power of politicians.

This week is thus all about will-power in the chancelleries of the West. That is clear enough from the troubled state of West Germany. The Soviet Union manipulates West German public opinion persistently, if not always successfully. Thus Mr Genscher has been criticised this weekend with Mr Gromyko at the eleventh hour, not to show any weakening in allied policy but to show his supporters that he is trying.

The peace movement in West Europe is one sided in more ways than one. It calls for unilateral gestures by the West while pretending that the same

pressure of public opinion is being exercised on Soviet leaders. All recent evidence from the real, as opposed to the phoney, peace campaigners in the Soviet system shows that they are desperately keen for the West to continue to negotiate from a position of strength which would be fatally undermined by unilateral gestures.

The movement is one-sided philosophically in its emphasis on peace as an abstraction without any reference to, or recognition of, the role of defence in achieving a state of affairs which could be called peace. That is the fallacy underneath much public opinion polling in west Europe. We would all say yes to peace; it is how to achieve that, and maintain it, which requires a discipline and an application which seems to be lost on demonstrators.

The west European peace movements are inspired by a tangle of influences of which the immensity of cruise and Pershing is merely the latest and most convenient. They obviously question the logic and discipline of nuclear deterrence. It is a difficult enough concept for the military to absorb since it requires armaments to prevent war rather than fight war. After 38 years without European conflict it is not surprising that the younger generation stumbles on the paradox that in order not to use weapons one must have them.

Moreover arguments about nuclear deterrence have an arcane quality which deprives them of meaning for people outside the expert circle. The result is a general tendency to assume an apocalyptic attitude to nuclear weapons alone, and to forget that non-nuclear war can be just as horrible to those who are in the thick of it, and that it can obliterate civilization and societies just as effectively.

The other influence in the peace groups is anti-Americanism. Though not inspired by the Soviet Union it neatly coincides with the Soviet long-term objective to sever the North Atlantic connexion. There are other cultural tensions between the United States and West Europe but the defence relationship is potentially the most difficult since the very success of the American commitment to Europeans, and the security provided by the nuclear umbrella, has created an irresponsibility in West European society, which, though regrettable, is easy to understand. It is difficult to inculcate a sense of responsibility for one's own security when it is clear that somebody else is actually exercising that responsibility.

The European countries, and most of all West Germany, are expected to provide conventional defences which are incorrectly portrayed to be irrelevant in the light of nuclear weapons. Nowhere is this misunderstanding more unsettling than in West Germany where the political division between East and West, and the latent insecurity of German society create a crisis of identity. At times of tension or decision, this leads to the search for an outside scapegoat, conveniently represented by Uncle Sam.

The West German peace camps would like to forget that twice in this century American troops have had to come to Europe to defend Western civilization, threatened by German instability. There are now 300,000 American troops stationed in Europe to contribute to stability. Yet they are told that they are a threat to peace when they acquire weapons with which to defend themselves. The consequence for all Europe would be grave if public opinion within the United States reads too much into the peace demonstrations this week.

PROMOTION FOR MR TEBBIT

Trade and Industry is a megaministry. Its two parts were put together once before, by Mr Heath, and then dissolved. Mrs Thatcher reunited them for her second spell of office, partly to internalize the divergence of outlook their respective responsibilities generate, and partly no doubt in the hope that withdrawal from big government would make the department's work load more manageable.

It is a focus of competing pressures: protection and free trade, competition and commercial self-defence, market forces and state support of industrial undertakings. It also operates in areas of major economic importance and political sensitivity, like the trading relationship between Europe and the United States. It has a large role in the Government's privatization programme, by which the ideology of the party is to be promoted and substantial revenue

raised by the sale of public assets. It has in hand a review of regional policy, which ought to be asking whether the very large sums of public money that go by that route to support industry are spent to the best advantage in order to stimulate production and employment at this tentative stage of recovery from recession. The minister in charge of the department needs to be able to form and prosecute policy through the many distractions of the job; and he needs to be able to impart coherence to the administration of areas like monopolies and mergers where it is evidently lacking at the moment. That argues for a minister of proven departmental experience, who has political weight and a ready grasp of essentials.

The appointment of Mr Norman Tebbit matches those requirements. It is a good political choice for a department

that will have a crucial role to play in the Government's efforts to establish a better economic performance on the foundations it has laid. It is also advancement for Mr Tebbit himself, which his record in government has earned, which his status as one of Mrs Thatcher's favourite colleagues has ensured, and which the party conference may be said to have endorsed in advance by the warmth of its approval of him.

It is not the best moment to be leaving the Department of Employment just as the legislation Mr Tebbit has been working up to reaches the House of Commons. But he has defined the objectives of that legislation and laid the groundwork to such good effect (as well as resuming diplomatic relations with the TUC) that it can be left with reasonable safety to the obliging Mr Tom King, who puts on his third hat in five months.

CHINA'S PERIODICAL PURGE

Is it possible to instil a sense of vigour and purpose into a ruling Communist Party? Few people in Poland and other East European countries would even bother to ask the question. In the Soviet Union Mr Andropov has confined himself to trying to stamp out bureaucratic sloth and corruption. But in China the question is still taken very seriously indeed.

Ever since the 1940s Chinese Communist leaders have considered how to prevent their party from turning into an entrenched, privileged bureaucracy divorced from the "old hundred names" - the ordinary people of China. One remedy that they have periodically applied is a party rectification campaign, or purge, which in theory at least devotes more attention to re-education than terror. The first big campaign of this kind was carried out when the Communist Party was based in Yanan in Northwest China in the early 1940s. It is now regarded by Mr Deng and his supporters as a model for emulation.

The second big rectification campaign took place in 1957, when China was absorbing the lessons of de-Stalinization in the Soviet Union, and from events in Poland and Hungary the previous year. By this time there were those in Peking, including Chairman Mao, who saw the danger of the Chinese Communist Party growing as isolated and unpopular as ruling communist parties elsewhere. The solution was the Hundred Flowers Movement - an attempt to purge the party of complacency and corruption by exposing it to popular, non-party criticism. The movement led to a series of scorching attacks on the party

and its policies, which threw it into panic and led it to adopt a policy of repression.

During the next ten years Chairman Mao searched for some way of keeping the party in good health. He eventually made the fatal error of launching the Cultural Revolution, in the belief that the answer lay in remoulding the party in his own image. China was plunged into a decade of terror from which the Communist Party emerged even more privileged, corrupt and self-serving than before.

This is the legacy that Mr Deng Xiaoping and his supporters have inherited. Since returning to power in the late 1970s, Mr Deng has set himself an almost impossible task. Abandoning the left-wing rhetoric of the Cultural Revolution era, he has adopted a range of economic and political policies previously denounced as leftist. At the same time he has tried to inject the spirit of Yanan into the party, so as to restore the revolutionary ideals of his own youth.

These two policies have to a large extent been contradictory. By the time Mao died most party members had already grown cynical after years of political intrigue and repeated changes of party line. Mr Deng's wholesale reversal of previous policies has only made such cynicism worse. Few of the 40 million or more party members will approach this task with the élan and commitment by which Mr Deng sets so much store.

It may have been an awareness of this that finally made Mr Deng decide on yet another party purge. Certainly he held back for some time, reluctant to subject the country to another political campaign after the turmoil of

the Cultural Revolution. But late last year the party decided to go ahead with a rectification movement, and this decision was spelt out in detail by the central committee plenary session that met in Peking this week.

The aim of this purge will be to unite and invigorate the party, ridding it of leftist opponents of Mr Deng's political programme as well as people guilty of corruption and other "economic crimes". Much of the groundwork for the purge has already been laid. Within the top leadership in Peking, most if not all the leftists have already been driven from office. And the authorities recently launched a large-scale and brutal campaign throughout China aimed at cracking down on crime among the people at large.

Mr Deng has however insisted that the purge will not degenerate into a witch hunt reminiscent of Cultural Revolution days. No doubt he genuinely wants to avoid a revival of terror as an instrument of policy. But he may also be giving ground to those whose own past record does not dispose them towards supporting an attack on leftism. The result is that the purge is likely to end up a rather tame affair.

The party has already stressed that it will concentrate on education and the study of Mr Deng's "selected works" and that only a "small handful" of party members will be expelled. Neither Mr Deng's works nor a handful of expulsions will restore the party's ideals and sense of purpose, or do much to improve its popular standing and reputation. But the Chinese are at least addressing a problem which other ruling communist parties have dismally failed to solve.

Institutional ties prove tenacious

From Mr Nevil Johnson

Sir, Both Sir John Hoskyns's recent pronouncements on improving our methods of government and several of the subsequent comments on these in your columns appear to rest on an oddly naive view of institutional and constitutional constraints.

He seems to believe, and so does Mr Edmund Dell, judging from his letter (October 9), that institutional relationships embodying constitutional principles defining our type of parliamentary government can somehow or other be discarded and changed like an old suit of clothes.

This is not so, neither here nor elsewhere. Some of the practices which Sir John and others think might be quite easily shed represent a deposit of past experience: they are rooted in the character and behaviour of institutions through which the country has been and is governed.

Let me take two examples. First, there is the suggestion that a prime minister should be able to appoint non-elected persons to Cabinet posts, presumably without having to resort to subsequent ennoblement. But this is fantasy. The House of Commons would not tolerate a practice that would reverse the path of constitutional development followed since 1689.

The Commons believes that it controls ministers because, apart from peers, they are members of it, subject ultimately to all the authority vested in the House. It has never in its history shown the slightest inclination to believe that it can properly control those who do not as elected members, enjoy equal rights within it.

Hoskyns and Dell may believe that this objection is but a trifle. If they do, then they must have little sense of the history of parliamentary government in Britain.

My second example refers to the Civil Service, which Sir John appears to regard as an obstacle to innovative strategies, better at finding reasons for inaction than for action. There is no space to consider how well founded this view is, though I am inclined to think that the record is far more ambiguous than Sir John suggests.

But the crucial point is that the Civil Service exists in a state of political subordination to ministers: it has no authority to be independently innovative; its job is not to determine policy but to support politicians in so doing.

Moreover, as a permanent career service it is bound to political neutrality, and in a sense this means having no partisan commitment to current policies. In other words, it can never really be what Sir John says it should be.

Naturally, the reality of relations between officials and politicians is far less clear-cut than I am implying. But I do not see how we could have Sir John's ideal Civil Service without abandoning tenaciously held views about the proper relationship between elected representatives and appointed agents.

I am not arguing that no changes can be made in our methods of government, and indeed, imperceptible changes are occurring all the time. But we have to live with what we have got and adapt it as best we can. And we are not likely to have much success in that unless we first understand the character of our institutions and their inherent flexibility.

Utopia Ltd, of whatever vintage, won't help, not has it for 20 years or more.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
NEVILLE JOHNSON,
Weyfield College,
Oxford.
October 6.

Evangelical stance

From the Rev Gordon W. Kuhrt

Sir, I write with reference to your Religious Affairs Correspondent's report (October 10) of the address by Dr David Samuel, attacking the Anglo-Catholic movement.

I cannot understand why Mr Longley, with his intimate knowledge of religious affairs, persists in calling Church Society the "senior Evangelical body in the Church". The annual Anglican Evangelical Assembly and its standing committee, the Church of England Evangelical Council, are far more representative of Anglican Evangelicals.

Many Evangelicals will be deeply saddened with me by the confrontational tone of Dr Samuel's address. This may be the new stance of the Church Society, but it is certainly not representative of Evangelicals as a whole.

One can be an Evangelical deeply committed to Scripture and heartily long for and work towards unity and concord with all God's people whom we love dearly.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON KUHORT,
Emmanuel Vicarage,
38 Croham Manor Road,
South Croydon.
October 10.

Law of the Sea Treaty

From Professor D. C. Watt and others

Sir, We write to welcome the support you gave today (leading article, October 6) to Professor Denman's call in his lecture at LSE for the academic development of the study of sea use planning and management. We would like to make it clear, however, that Professor Denman was not the origin of this proposal, but was adding his welcome support to a proposal already adopted by the London School of Economics.

Nuclear 'freeze' and safeguards

From Sir Rudolf Peierls, FRS

Sir, Lord Chalfont (October 10) attacks the "nuclear freeze" proposals advanced in a recent, closely argued, advertisement (September 28). We read with attention the reply of a man who once raised our hopes as Britain's first Minister for Disarmament.

Apart from querying the qualifications of the advocates, suspecting the motives of the supporters, and claiming, without evidence, that authorities have been quoted out of context, he argues that there would be prohibitive difficulties over verification.

This misses the point that a freeze would not need verification. The arsenals which it would leave in the possession of the nuclear Powers are amply sufficient to inflict unacceptable damage in retaliation. Such deterrence would fail only if either side could acquire the capacity for a disarming first strike, but this nightmare belongs, as is also emphasized in the advertisement, in the realm of science fiction.

Even substantial unverified arms reduction (though not unverified complete abandonment of nuclear weapons) would not impair any nation's security.

Lord Chalfont claims that the problem is complex and intellectually demanding. Evidently only people who agree with him are sufficiently intelligent to understand the issues; opponents are naive. Yet the issues are simple, only made complicated by politicians in all nuclear nations talking in terms of the outmoded concepts of the balance of power.

Factors keeping the arms race going are the inventiveness and love for their craft of the technicians and the belief of politicians in obsolete slogans. The lack of military utility of modern nuclear weapons is agreed by all serious students of the problem.

Lord Chalfont must be reading a strange version of the ABM treaty if he regards the construction of a new radar system by the USSR as a violation.

Discussion of these vital issues will further our understanding, but let us have reasons, not rhetoric.

Yours faithfully,
RUDOLF PEIERLS,
28 Northmoor Road,
Oxford.
October 11.

From Sir Clive Rose

Sir, Lord Chalfont's letter (October 10) admirably sets out the arguments against a nuclear "freeze". There is also a major practical difficulty. The sponsors of the advertisement made no attempt to suggest how a freeze might be achieved. There are two possibilities.

The first is a unilateral moratorium, or rather parallel unilateral moratoria (two, three, four or five?). But experience of moratoria has not been encouraging. The nuclear test ban moratorium of 1958 was broken by the Russians in 1961 without any warning to the US or the UK, making it perfectly clear that clandestine preparations for resuming tests had been going on for some time. More recently, President Brezhnev's announcement of a

Punjab politics

From Mr R. S. Bains

Sir, After reading Michael Hamlyn's report of October 8 on Punjab one would get the impression that the very reason d'être of the political agitation in Punjab is the refusal of the central Government to accept the demands of the Akali Dal Party. This, of course, is not quite true.

To grasp what is going on in this most volatile and turbulent state of the Indian union one has to look at the very composition of the Akali Dal Party. It is a mixed bag of radical nationalists, outright chauvinists and religious fanatics.

The moderate wing, led by Sant Langowal, is always under heavy pressure from the extremist wing, led by Sant Bhindranwale, a semi-educated, self-confessed fanatic whom the Indian press has quite rightly described as the Ayatollah Khromeni of Punjab.

Wedgwood's service

From Miss Alison Kelly

Sir, Further to the correspondence on Wedgwood's service for Catherine the Great, the piece seen by Mr Shewring (October 8) is part of the dessert section. It was not a vegetable dish but a memento - a bowl to contain iced water for keeping glasses cool.

The fighting in the Hermitage must have deceived Mr Shewring, since the colour of the decoration is not green, but what Wedgwood called "a delicate brown", actually a very dark purplish brown. Though a few trial pieces were decorated in colours, monochrome designs were essential, because almost all the illustrations used were engravings.

Wedgwood had intended to have special paintings or drawings made, and Dr Williamson believed that he did so; but this would have been impossible in the time available. A few friends and patrons, such as Mr

unilateral moratorium on deployment (not on production or preparation for deployment) of SS20s on March 16, 1982, which was to remain in force during the INF arms control negotiations, was quickly shown to be no more than a propaganda gambit; there was never as much as a symbolic pause in deployment of the SS20s, which has gone on continuously ever since.

In any case, even a moratorium would require agreement on the systems and procedures to be covered. As Lord Chalfont has shown, these would not be anything like as simple or obvious as the sponsors seem to believe. This alone would involve difficult and protracted negotiations, even without verification. And meanwhile, research, tests, production and deployments would continue unchecked.

The alternative is bilateral (or multilateral) negotiations. Given that provisions for verification formally agreed, would be essential, these would be the only acceptable method. But for anyone who has actually taken part in arms control negotiations, the mind boggles at the complexity of a negotiation covering the whole range of activities involved in the concept of a nuclear freeze. Irrespective of the merits of the concept, such a negotiation would, in my experience, be completely unmanageable.

It was, to a large extent, the need for manageability which persuaded the Nato countries in the MBFR (mutual and balanced force reductions) talks in Vienna to make manpower levels on each side the basis for their proposals in 1973, when the Russians, from the start, were insisting on equal percentage reductions to be applied to each individual item of armaments and equipment. The Russians eventually came round to recognising that the Nato concept was the only realistic basis, although, for other reasons, agreement still seems remote.

Similarly, in the INF negotiations in Geneva, the recent American concession to the Russian demand that aircraft should be included may remove one obstacle to progress, but it promises enormously to complicate the negotiators' task.

Those who put forward grandiose and simplistic schemes for disarmament need to give more thought to the potential negotiability of what they are proposing. They would do much better to concentrate their efforts on ways of making real progress on individual aspects of the nuclear process - Start, the INF negotiations, comprehensive test ban and the possibility of a cut-off of nuclear material for weapons purposes.

They could begin by pressing the Russians to live up to their publicly professed advocacy of disarmament by responding constructively at the negotiating table to the numerous positive proposals put forward by the West in the last two years. This is the only way to secure reductions.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE ROSE,
Chimney House,
Lavenham,
Sudbury,
Suffolk.
October 11.

It is the extreme wing of the Akali Party which is indirectly responsible for the killing of innocent Hindus and Nirankaris. So pernicious a voice have the extremists acquired in the party that even Sant Langowal has been reduced to silence on these murderous assaults on the Nirankaris.

The overall law and order situation has gone from bad to worse and it is not at all propitious to a reopening of a meaningful dialogue with the Akali Party.

It is under these unfortunate circumstances that Mrs Gandhi has ordered the dismissal of the state government and its replacement by direct presidential rule.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. BAINS,
34 Shere Road,
Gants Hill,
Essex.
October 9.

Anson and Lord Stamford, lent him drawings of their estates, but otherwise he relied on the prints of famous gardens, houses, castles, etc, which were available in abundance at that period.

He spent about £100 on such prints. The cost of the service itself, before decoration, was only £51, but the hand-painted decoration, etc, brought Wedgwood's expenses to about £2,290. With the commission of 10 per cent to the Russian Consul in Great Britain, the outgoings reached £2,519, for a return of £2,700.

Profits in cash were therefore hardly more than 7 per cent, but in prestige the value of the service was incalculable. As this correspondence has shown, it is still of the greatest interest, more than 200 years later.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON KELLY,
Flat 8,
34 Phillimore Gardens, W8.
October 8.

without the support of British industry and finance.

Indeed, should HM Government decide to adhere to the Law of the Sea Convention, LSE will be able to play its part in training the planners and managers which the UN seabed authorities and the international consortia will require. So far from ignoring the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention and its implications, it is one of the central elements in the whole programme.

Yours faithfully,
D. CAMERON WATT,
ROSALYN HIGGINS,
D. DIAMOND,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
October 6.

British Library shortcomings

From Dr Peter Partner

Sir, Lord Bruce-Gardyne (feature, October 12) in proposing to leave the British Library indefinitely with inferior and deteriorating facilities, shows an indifference to good learning which I deplore, especially in a fellow-graduate of Magdalen College.

He also displays a lack of concern for the international standing of Britain's cultural institutions which is only too common among British politicians.

Scholars who have travelled several thousand miles to consult BM books are not happy to wait three days (not 24 hours) while they come from Woolwich, especially if one has to be reoriented! Such visitors are likely to class libraries with primitive facilities as being situated in the less advanced countries.

Perhaps the most significant expression in Lord Bruce-Gardyne's article is "muddle on". I thought the Conservative Party had abandoned that mentality, but it seems not.

Yours truly,
PETER PARTNER,
2 Kingsgate Street,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
October 12.

God as person

From Mrs J. Hardwick

Sir, I read with mild disagreement your comments today (October 8). I teach 34 seven-year-old boys and girls. After several years' experience I have come to anticipate (annually) the puzzled looks on the girls' faces as, probably for the first time, they begin to notice their apparent exclusion from some of God's blessings.

I think it is the use of the word "man" or even "mankind", when we mean "people" or "the human race", that causes the most bewilderment and some spiritual confusion.

It is a point of language I discuss (at least annually) with the children, not the least to put the boys in the picture! But the discussion seems inadequate; I am usually left with the impression that the girls feel slightly less sure of God's love than the boys.

The pronoun "he" for the Holy Trinity does not seem to cause any misplaced ideas of inferiority or superiority.

May I hasten to add our headmaster and deputy headmaster conduct excellent assemblies and they do try to substitute "people" for "man". When they do, I am sure our unity becomes unambiguous.

Yours faithfully,
JOCELYN HARDWICK,
Milverton County Primary School,
Milverton,
Taunton,
Somerset,
October 8.

Irish accents

From Dr A. R. Rumble

Sir, It is a pity that your correspondent's report ("How to write letters with an Irish accent", October 8), concerning research into modern Irish handwriting, is marred by the concoction of an anachronistic "example" of fifth century half-uncial script in the phrase, "were in use".

A writer (even an Irish one) of that date would not have included either the letter "w" or a dotted "i" in his repertoire of letter forms. This error would have been avoided if, in accord with the general theme of the report, the phrase "are used" had been chosen as the example.

Another factor, not mentioned in the report, which must be taken into account in studying influences on modern Irish handwriting is the widespread use of half-uncial/Irish majuscule script for official purposes in the Republic. This is used there for the Irish portion of bilingual street names, for railway station names, and on the currency.

These features of everyday life are a constant reminder to all who see them of a long, praiseworthy, and peculiarly Irish scribal tradition. I sign myself as, yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER R. RUMBLE,
University of Manchester,
Department of Palaeography,
The University,
Oxford Road,
Manchester,
October 9.

Israel's leaders

From Dr Bernard Barnett

Sir, Your near-rehabilitation of the former Prime Minister of Israel (leader, October 11), the more effectively to damn his successor, ignores the historic realities.

Amongst the most outrageous dealings with Nazis before, during and after the war, Mr Shamir's attempt to save Jews from the gas chambers cannot be considered amongst the most heinous crimes against humanity. From the same scene at the same time, the Mufti of Jerusalem was persona grata in the camp of Britain's enemy.

Yours truly,
BERNARD BARNETT,
2 Belle Walk,
Birmingham,
October 11.

Old stock

From Mr T. L. Jones

Sir, Ruth Golding's supermarket wanted OAPs for shelf-filling (October 8). In this university registers do not die but simply fade away and so we have a shelf (space) in our filing room labelled: "Space reserved for Registrar."

Yours faithfully,
T. LOCKWOOD JONES,
Assistant Registrar,
University of Bristol,
Senate House,
Bristol,
October 10.

THE ARTS

Dance

When the audience reach for the stars

Manon
Covent Garden

Alamel Valli
Commonwealth Institute

Musk: Red
The Place

Some readers may not yet be familiar with a new, rapidly proliferating art form that flourishes particularly at this time of year under the shelter of the Dance Umbrella. It consists, in its simplest form, of counting the number of words devoted in the papers to discussing different kinds of theatrical dancing, and using that information to develop elaborate theories of how oppressed and neglected is the kind of dance that the author favours.

One factor neglected so far is that of public opinion, which overwhelmingly favours classical ballet. For proof of that, one has only to note that Covent Garden seems many more people than the theatres where rival dance attractions appeared last week, but Covent Garden had the

"Sold Out" signs up for Manon on Saturday whereas the others, although well attended, could still have accommodated extra spectators.

It helped, of course, that the cast was headed by Natalia Makarova and Anthony Dowell. The applause that greeted them on entry made it clear that the audience would love them whatever they did, and I must confess that I found neither of them quite so well suited, in appearance or personality, to these roles as they used to be. But there is no denying the intensity or the quality of their performances. They are stars; they know it, and the spectators know it.

All around them, small-part players (with David Drew as the gaoler an honourable exception) were overacting in the widest way. Whether it is the fault, or the choreographer's or a misguided rehearsal director's, I have no idea, but it happened. And, although my knowledge of broths is limited, I am pretty sure there can never have been one such as this ballet presents, nor such a day-excursion for the whores, nor such a penal colony.

Lescaut, who ranks close to Manon and Des Grieux in prominence for the first two acts, is less a character than a couple of solos and a comic duet, with some sinister prowling in between and a gory

death scene, but David Wall plays the role so well that you hardly notice. He, Makarova and Dowell carried the evening: every gesture full and strong and clear.

There is no way that a recital of Bharata Nartya, the classical dance form of southern India, is going to appeal to so wide an audience in this country, even when presented by an artist as engaging, subtle and persuasive as Alamel Valli, who appeared at the Commonwealth Institute as one of the public events associated with a seminar attempting to relate various kinds of Asian, Afro-Caribbean and English dancing.

For its followers, strict adherence to traditional forms is clearly an attraction, but my impression is that, when Uday Shankar and Ram Gopal introduced Indian dancing to large audiences in Britain, they adapted tradition to a more theatrical presentation. Since some parts of the Bharata Nartya style are much more accessible than others, I wonder whether something similar is either possible or desirable today?

I think it would not be difficult for Julien Hamilton and Mathieu Keiser to adapt their act to a form that would have really wide appeal. Hamilton is a dancer, Keiser a musician who seems able to be

something of a handyman. On a stage containing percussion instruments (conventional and unorthodox) and odd structures, their duet improvisations were a comic hit during a previous Dance Umbrella season.

Returning to London last week, they had an extra member of the team, Kirstie Simson, who engages in various odd and not especially interesting activities with paper bags during the opening sequence, but later dances a long sequence with Hamilton in which contact improvisation techniques are used for aggressive contact ending in some sort of acceptance.

Meanwhile Keiser, sung in a hammock slung from a giant metallic mobile, smugly shifts his position to make the pots and pans that hang from it clash together or chase the dancers. I thought it rather fun, but in increasing the dance element they have reduced or diluted the conflict of personalities that was part of the attraction. It is also clear that, because of the improvisational elements, the performance can vary a lot in quality, even in nature, from one night to another. To wider audiences, they would need to standardize, which is not at all what they are after.

John Percival



Intensity and quality: Natalia Makarova, Anthony Dowell

PUBLISHING

Dim view of books

Every time there is a new television book programme, publishers and the media - but not, I think, authors or viewers - become terribly excited and wonder if this time the blue-eyed monster will have cracked the code of how to get books across on the small screen. The current series on Channel 4 (*Book Four*) and BBC2 (*Bookmark*) are no exceptions. The wonder is that experienced television and book-trade people should think authors and those who read and review books should somehow be more stimulating, visually and intellectually, than interviews or discussions with scientists, politicians, artists or sportsmen.

Talk is talk, and there is no reason why authors should be better at it than other people. Indeed, the odds are against it, authors preferring to conduct their monologues or dialogues with paper. Salman Rushdie, in last week's *Book Four*, talked about his novel *Shame*, then discussed it and its relationship with life in Pakistan today - as if that is what novels are about, or for - with a one-time revolutionary and an actor. Articulate and politically engaged though Mr Rushdie is, the concept is demeaning to all concerned, not least to the writer.

Clearly books can be about anything, any subject under the sun. Therefore television can do anything with them or their authors. In theory, at least. Equally clearly, each book is itself, the author's construct. This television can do nothing with.

Without books, and dramatic adaptations thereof, television would be the thinnest of gruels, especially with so few single plays being transmitted. What bewilderers is that anyone, from Melvyn Bragg to Hermione Lee and Simon Winchester and their producers, should continue to believe that somehow books, the ideas contained in them and their artistic integrity, can - if the formula be discovered - make riveting television. Frank Delaney may not be Dr Leavis but his radio programme *The World of Books* made it plain that the right presenter, who knows and is passionate about his books, can make new writing live - partly because there are no distracting visual images.

Book Club Associates, jointly owned by W. H. Smith and the American publishers Doubleday, are cock-a-hoop about the recently published concordat of the Office of Fair Trading which declares that, for the present, they are not being referred to the Monopolies Commission. This has to be surprising as, with 1½m members and about 25 clubs (including the big two, Book of the Month and Literary

Guid), they undoubtedly supply the majority of book club editions disseminated in the UK. Their only real competitor, Bantam's Leisure Circle, has just over ¼m members.

Anthony Shell, president of the Association of Authors' Agents, has pointed out that this means, in effect, that both authors and publishers suffer. Publishers because the book clubs, notably B.C.A., can insist that books are supplied to them by their trade publishers (who control club rights) at only just above cost. Authors because the clubs, increasingly insisting on pleasing customer resistance to higher, realistic prices on being sold books royalty inclusive.

Thus it is the originating publisher who decides how few pence the author will receive, and in any case that sum is traditionally divided equally between author and publisher. Macmillan wrote to some of their authors recently warning that in future, with at least one book club, they might not be able to pay royalties at all, but hoped authors would agree a book club sale was better than no book club sale.

David Cash, the optimistically named managing director of *Private Eye*, writes to say that, although Lord Gnome's outfit was contemplating moving its publishing distribution to *Charlie* & *Wendy*, the *Eye* has decided to stay with And Deutsch for the present. Could this have anything to do with the fact that Deutsch will shortly have a new sales director?

The Frankfurt Book Fair is almost over for another year. Unlike most important or self-regarding British publishers, Ernest Hecht of Souvenir Press was not there, nor has he been for 18 years. This may be why - year in, year out - he runs one of the most profitable lists in London. He is wilyly amused that, by remaining at home, he is sometimes asked to pick up the pieces of his competitors' Frankfurt indiscretions. It is thought that each year 80 per cent of the deals agreed at Frankfurt, whether for rights or co-editions, agreed at are renegotiated upon.

The most worthwhile party this column attended at Frankfurt was given by the sometime funny man Peter Wolfe, once the publisher of the *Bluffer's* Guides. He is now a most serious person, and hosted a party for the international medical publishing community to celebrate 21 years of Wolfe Medical Publications.

E. J. Craddock

Television

Limited welcome

BBC1's *Heart of the Matter* presents David Jessel with the difficult role - of seeking righteousness without appearing self-righteous: tough in any circumstances; tougher when you have the power of television behind you. Mainly, he does it well.

Last night he was on the South Arizona border, a favoured spot for illegal immigrants crossing into what they see as a more promising land. But the days of that old injunction "Send me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free" are over. The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service mounts a complex border patrol network, with every technological aid, to turn back the poor to huddle elsewhere.

In this they are following an international pattern, the quality of mercy having been strained by economic blight. The United States, with a long border and "looking in" situation that promises to give them more Spanish-speakers than English by the end of the century, feel the problem keenly and, without quarrelling, with the main thrust of Mr Jessel's programme, I thought he did not quite cover their problem.

While America is party to the United Nations protocol which rules that refugees should not be returned to mortal peril, Mexico is not, so those fleeing from

Guatemala or El Salvador, if pushed back into Mexico by the United States, can be sent back to the lethal embrace of these regimes.

Many Americans disagree with their government's attitude and two, Jim Corbett, a Quaker, and the Rev John Fife, a Tucson pastor, have set up the Sanctuary Movement. It smuggles fugitives across, finds them lodging in churches and moves them on to safe houses through an underground railroad.

Mr Corbett said he had smuggled in more than 400. His Sanctuary Movement declares itself openly and welcomes court proceedings because it thinks the government attitude contrary to international law. Time, he believes, is with them and righteousness, well sought here by Mr Jessel and the producer Colin Cameron, bound to win.

Earlier on BBC1 we saw the start of *By the Sword Divided*, a 10-part series "created" by John Hawkesford, our own civil war. Much money has been spent here in pursuit of authenticity and much effort on the language. I particularly enjoyed the contrast in conversations above and below stairs. It bids well, and those of our own huddled masses with a taste for swashbuckles should have a feast.

Dennis Hackett

Twelfth Night
Young Vic

Denise Coffey's production is one of those junior First Aid revivals, performing frantic mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a Bard supposedly left bleeding on the classroom floor.

Look: it proclaims to be the kids, Shakespeare is not boring; there is nothing soppy about *Twelfth Night*. These people are a lot of fun, and they have bags of energy; just watch them charging about. The language is quite easy. Shakespeare may have written "element", but you could just as well say "environment". And see how well he fits in with "The Road to Mandalay", "Lady Be Good" or any other old number we hand out to our three-piece band. It's like old-time vaudeville really (not that you've ever seen that), with the actors chatting away with the MD and characters on the run putting on dark glasses and hiding in the pit.

As for this Illyria place, it can be wherever you like; so, we thought, why not go somewhere East of Suez back in the 1930s? The British Empire is always good for a giggle. You can have Malvolio and Sir Andrew coming on in those baggy khaki shorts and solar topees, and get Viola up in white naval kit. That should stop Deborah Popple from moaning on about love. But, to make sure, better have Peter Woodward's Orsino

striding around and barking orders like a scoutmaster who has forgotten the compass. Of course, it doesn't really fit. There are no natives; no admiral; nothing in the least like a colonial outpost. But who's going to notice when there is so much going on? It isn't every day that you see the twins as Americans; or Malvolio as a Highland reaper (when Stephen Lewis remembers his accent) who does the cross-gartering bit in kit and sporrans with the hand-pumping out "Scotland the Brave".

You may have gleaned that this show struck me as an act of vulgarism, but in which the extravagance of the costumes is matched only by the vacantly under-theorized performance. As for the music, a charming school band, directed by a Westonian jolly and Desmond McNamara, Toby to a barfly with a temporary licence in the Illyrian Home Guard.

The only part to benefit from the treatment is the usually superbly casted, in which Peter Capaldi shows to advantage as a fiery, fix-upped Turk.

Production apart, there are memorable performances from Sheila Steafel's Maria, a hand-bag-clutching domestic with a penetrating Margaret Rutherford hoot; and James Bowman's Feste, whose ungainly counter-tenor periodically lifts the evening into a state of enchantment.

Irving Wardle

Theatre

Charlie
New End

This small-theatre, small-budget Chaplin show should have been a refreshing starter before the promised blockbusters. We assumed sharp writing and witty tunes, mistakenly. Like so many musicals of Chaplin's own period, *Charlie* is a multi-handed job: two authors, three composers and four lyricists (whose contributions are not identified) have combined to spoil the broth and, though I suppose one real talent may have produced all the few good things, the impression is rather one of mediocrities well matched.

They cover only the early period, the few years which took the little man from failed variety tours to naming his price in Hollywood, via idle months in Mack Sennett's studios before the big break, the conception of the Chaplin character and numerous tumbles with adoring starlets. That is an unpromising dramatic shape, even without flat dialogue and lyrics whose clumsiest stanzas are repeated anything up to four times.

"Today I fell in love and the feeling's good. It makes me feel warm, just like a tune, and wish this would happen every day", runs the leading lady's big

number. Having had a row, she then reprises: "Today I'm not so sure..."

Amanda Edwards has the glamour and sparkle to get away with this, though not the grotesque solo choreography. Despite her youth, she convinces as the silent-screen diva swanning through amusingly corny Sennett sketches, the best thing in Chris Barton's production.

A twinkling little chap called Arthur Wilman, recruited late to the cast with only a week's rehearsal, is an astonishingly assured Charlie, playing with immense enjoyment and barely a moment's mishap. He closely resembles Max Wall at the tender age of about 50 - much older than Chaplin at the show's date, but magically carrying off the *Arnie* T-like scene where the persona that made him famous is assembled before our eyes from a bowler and cane contributed by a passing hobo and the legless disorder of a well-dressed English peer.

Also notable, though poorly served by the script, is Chuck Julian, who played Darryl Zanuck in *Marilyn* and is now a wonderfully comical Mack Sennett, philosophically chomping a cigar and rolling his eyes too-like at each new enormity of showbiz behaviour or irony of box-office taste.

Anthony Masters

Opera

Good opportunity skilfully exploited

Rebecca
Grand, Leeds

Very few new operas can have been greeted by applause as warm and immediate as that in Leeds on Saturday night for the premiere of Wilfred Josephs's *Rebecca*. It was a well-deserved tribute to both the enterprise and the realization of Opera North's first commission.

Rebecca, as potential opera, has of course everything going for it. Josephs's achievement has been not merely skilfully to exploit the obvious but also to release and recharge the deeper energies of du Maurier's novel: by astute selection, with his excellent librettist, Edward Marsh, by deft pacing realized in Colin Graham's observant

production and by musical articulation which is vivid, immediate, yet tough enough to leave more to come back to.

After a brief scene in Monte Carlo the opera stays, oppressively, inside Manderley, contracted into three blocks, economically defined by Stefanos Lazaridis's handsome colour-drenched staircase-dominated set and David Cunningham's eloquent lighting. Social encounters are telescoped; Frank Crawley's role is diminished; our sympathy with The Girl marginally, and effectively, reduced. The excision of the incest complexities and the switch from murder to suicide is the only questionable aspect: does Maxim's self-induced guilt at merely wishing Rebecca dead provide strong enough denouement?

If this problem niggles more in retrospect it is because our immediate attention is skilfully diverted. First to the figure of Mrs Danvers, who is reinstated as tragic heroine in a finely-built characterization leading to the *coup de théâtre* where, in the staircase duet, her love and grief for Rebecca is revealed dramatically and compassionately. As Manderley burns, hers is the immolation scene.

Josephs's score, sparingly orchestrated and no more of an intellectual heavyweight than is appropriate, works athletically and imaginatively on text and subtext. Signpost motives, highly charged brass chords, xylophone flecks, tense high string clusters (shades of the *Screw* movie fluently in and out of time, spicily dialogue, solos and ensembles.

The casting is as shrewd as the musical characterization: The Girl's wide-arching, pellucidly scored arioso, ingenious with a hint of self-indulgence, is captured free, true and unclinging in Gillian Sullivan's ringing soprano; Peter Knapp's Maxim is suitably debonaire and resilient; Ann Howard Danvers is a woman, even without flat dialogue and lyrics whose clumsiest stanzas are repeated anything up to four times.

Hilary Finch

Concerts

LCP/Holloway
Wigmore Hall

Saturday was a good day for Mozart. In the morning Radio 3 broadcast the superlative concert given by Frans Brüggen's Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century at the Edinburgh Festival: period-instrument playing of precision, grace and refinement, including a strong, wiry account of the Sinfonia Concertante with Daniel Steiner and Lucy van Dael as Soloists, and a magnificently assured 39th Symphony, characterized with original ideas right up to the final throwaway diminuendo.

Then, in the evening, the London Classical Players opened this year's Early Music Centre Festival in London with two Mozart piano concertos played with panache by that remarkable musician Melvin Tan. He chose to use the Stricker reproduction piano recently unveiled at Smith Square in Beethoven and, for all that it is a fine instrument, I regretted the decision. As the director John Holloway admitted, it copies a model of 1814, and though it has excellent projection, with a biting treble tone, one missed that bright, sparkling quality of the best Mozart pianos.

Stephen Pettitt

BBCSO/Herbig
Festival Hall/Radio 3

The first people to be congratulated for this stimulating concert given by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Günther Herbig are the programme builders. For, although each of the three pieces they chose was either cause or consequence of Germanic romanticism, each had a completely different set of premises to the others.

To begin, we heard Weber's Six Pieces for Orchestra, Op 6, played in the first version for the enormous orchestra necessary to satisfy the composer's concern for exactness of colouring. The centrepiece of this dark cycle is the funeral march movement, whose terrifying ferocious ending is redolent of Mahler, but still more frightening because of the immediacy of the language. But there is nostalgia and sorrow besides, and all of these emotions were captured in a reading that emphasized the sheer beauty of Weber's harmonic writing as well as his marvellous orchestration.

In contrast, Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony is less concerned with the self (or any other specific person) than with mankind in general. Here Herbig took advantage of the

forces to hand by occasionally doubling the woodwind and horn sections. This allowed him to make climaxes like that at the end of the slow movement ring with tragic majesty, and, although he ignored the first movement's exposition repeat, the performance was nevertheless on the loftiest scale.

There was some superlative solo playing too, most prominently from the first oboe, David Thomas, and from the horns in Herbig's fierce Scherzo.

Between these opposite ends of the spectrum, Sheila Armstrong sang Richard Strauss's Four Last Songs, the final work of a man resigned to death and with no great statements to make about humanity and with none of the psychological complexities of youth to unravel.

Miss Armstrong's tautly conceived performance leaned towards understatement, thus avoiding falling into the trap of over-sentimentality. Rodney Friend's big violin solo was nevertheless lavish, and the solo horn player, Derek Taylor, made an equally ripe contribution. Hearing such music thus played, one could forgive any composer for what he did not do.

If you care enough to give money, you might care to see where it goes.

Total income up by £1.7m.

Amount spent on services to spastic persons increased by £2m.

Cost of keeping schools and centres running increased by £1.4m.

An extra £150,000 spent on research.

Fund raising costs contained at 11% of total income.

Administration costs contained at 3% of total income.

Nearly £½m paid in VAT.

The Spastics Society is totally committed to the full integration of handicapped people into the community.

To this end, last year saw the development of our Centre for Studies on Integration in Education and a new approach to management in our industrial units.

All this in the same year that we helped to save Tadworth Court Hospital.

When all's said and done, there's one thing you can be sure of.

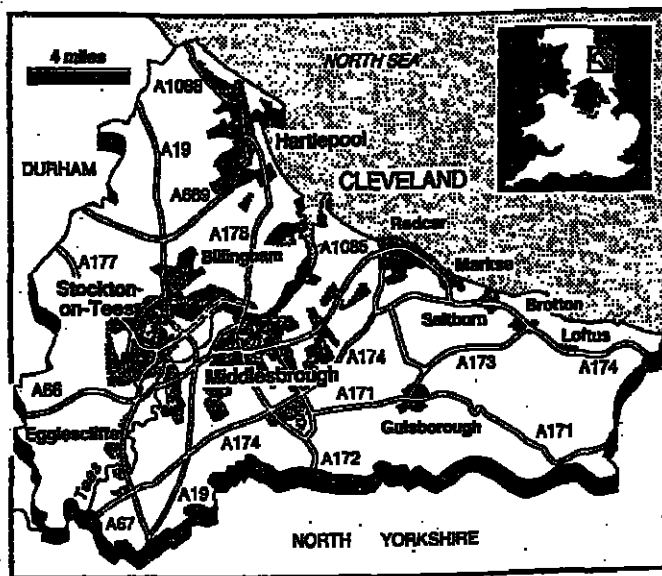
We'll take good care of your money.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 01-636 5020.

Copies of the Annual Report are available on request from The Spastics Society.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5th APRIL 1983	
Total income	£800 24,454
Less	
Schools and centres	15,778
Welfare and social services	1,518
Research and Development	409
Grants to the work of Affiliated Groups and Associated Charities	
Information and publications	
Services to spastic persons	965
Fund raising costs	382
Administration and finance	19,052
Non-recoverable VAT	2,700
Total expenditure	42,828
Surplus	704
Transfers to reserves for future specified and exceptional expenditure	22,884
Net surplus for year	1,570
	1,312
	258

The figures quoted above are abridged from the full accounts for the year ended 5th April 1983, which received an unqualified auditors' report and which will be filed with the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.



Cleveland

A SPECIAL REPORT

The county is a special development area including two enterprise zones: Hartlepool and Middlesbrough. The decline of traditional industries is being offset by the growth of offshore business. Ronald Kershaw reports.

New jobs for old, but not enough

The county of Cleveland stands like a coastal wedge hammered between Durham and North Yorkshire, a triangular chunky spine in the crick of the North-East. The county is a cauldron of industry, steelworks, chemicals, and heavy engineering, traditional trades which owe their existence to the central spine of the River Tees and to road and rail communications which have improved as these longstanding industries have declined.

Well over half a million people live in the county and, according to last month's statistics, nearly 56,000 of them are unemployed. This translates to 20.8 per cent of the employable population. The county divides into four boroughs, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Langbaurgh, the last almost completely rural.

One suspects that outside town halls, nobody really knows where borough boundaries begin and end. The mixture of industry is common to all three remaining boroughs though all three maintain industrial development organizations and vie with one another for new industry.

Hartlepool and Middlesbrough have the edge over Stockton because they have designated "enterprise zones" with all that means in terms of free rents, high-speed planning approval and a minimum of red tape to speed the implantation of new industrial and commercial projects.

The outsider must take a broad industrial view to discover how the county is faring. He would do worse than turn to the Cleveland County Council employment review, which is being considered by the elected representatives this week. He will discover that even after big cuts in employment in recent years, the steel and chemical industries still account for half the manufacturing jobs in Cleveland and about one fifth of all employment. It follows that many other companies depend on these two industries, which they provide with goods and services.

On the steel side, decline in demand and foreign competition have been the cause of drastic cuts in jobs. In 1979 some 24,000 people were employed in steel compared with today's figure of 7,500. Production is now centred in the Redcar, Lackenby and Cleveland complexes with smaller works at Skinningrove, Cargo Fleet, Stockton and Middlesbrough.

Position could get worse

Cleveland produces general steels - not the highly sophisticated, stainless high-speed and special steels of other divisions of the British Steel Corporation - and so is particularly vulnerable to the similarly unsophisticated steel industries of the developing countries which have a never ending supply of cheap labour and compete accordingly. The situation is likely to become more acute because BSC at Redcar operates a massive 10,000 tonnes a day blast furnace, the biggest in Europe, and this has to be retained in 1987. It will probably take six months, and during that time the rest of the steel complex will be without iron for steelmaking.

BSC is bending all its efforts to find a solution to this problem. Those who warned that the only other northern

ironmaking plant, at Consett, should never have been closed are saying "We told you so".

The county's commentary observes that more than three quarters of all jobs in the chemical industry in Cleveland are in ICI, which has suffered equally drastic cuts in employment and plant closures as steel. Overcapacity in petrochemicals and plastics throughout the world has taken its toll here but, as discussed elsewhere in this issue, important steps have been taken to rationalize and there is some hope of an upturn in the fortunes of this part of ICI.

All is not doom and gloom, however. The whole of Cleveland is in a special development area, with a wide variety of incentives from both central and local government available to attract new industries and expand those already established. Inquiries from companies contemplating relocation in Cleveland flow steadily in to county and borough councils, although job losses and gains never match up - roughly three

and a half jobs are lost to every one gained - it shows industrial development efforts are not futile.

In the first seven months of this year, the county council received 205 industrial inquiries, 24 more than in the same period of last year. Of these 162 were about premises and only 17 regarding sites. Just over half the inquiries were from the manufacturing sector and 45 per cent from service sector firms. Some 70 per cent of all inquiries came from within the county, 9 per cent from the northern region of the UK, 13 per cent from elsewhere in Britain and 8 per cent from abroad.

Ready to go: an accommodation module built by Redpath Offshore for British Gas's Rough Field in the North Sea.

Picture by Barry Wilkinson

ENTERPRISE ZONES

The big package that should bring in the jobs

Cleveland enjoys the dubious distinction of having the highest unemployment rate of any county in mainland Britain. If one leaves out the qualification "mainland", at 20.8 per cent it ranks second only to the Western Isles. Small wonder then that two of the principal towns, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough in this relatively small county have been designated enterprise zones.

The only other town of equal importance, Stockton, has been left out because, one must assume, while Middlesbrough has an unemployment rate of 22 per cent and Hartlepool one of

21.2 per cent, Stockton at 16.4 per cent, is in a position of relative luxury in the job-starved North-east. The whole of Cleveland has been designated a special development area, which means that all three towns may offer the various financial incentives available - tax allowances on capital expenditure, government cash grants, low interest loans, training grants and the rest of the package designed to attract new enterprise.

There is little doubt that the further inducements offered by

enterprise zone status provide an added edge. The main "extras" include freedom from rates for 10 years, exemption from development land tax, 100 per cent of building cost available for initial depreciation; easing of customs formalities and what are termed "facilitation of warehousing", no industrial development certificates are required; no industrial training levies; government information as required and planning procedures simplified.

It is not surprising that Mr Eddie Morley, Hartlepool's industrial development officer, says that since the Hartlepool EZ was designated in October 1981, activity has increased considerably. He said: "It is a valuable additional promotional tool. Factories that have remained empty have become occupied." However, the number of jobs lost from basic industries still outstrips the number of new jobs provided. The Hartlepool zone is of 265 acres within the borough and located on three

CLEVELAND FACTS

Area: 58,550 hectares (excluding tidal areas)
Population: 567,100 persons
Unemployed: 51,943 (19.4 per cent August, 1983)
38,781 males
13,162 females

separate sites. In the two years of its existence it has attracted more than 50 companies and provided 800 jobs with a further 1,000 jobs in prospect from projects in hand. It has to be remembered that enterprise zones are best suited to small and medium-sized firms and Mr Morley points out that two-thirds of new entrant companies employ between 50 and 100 people.

Middlesbrough is in a slightly different position to Hartlepool in that while the 190-acre zone has been approved and announced, the final decision of a designation date is still awaited from central government. This is important because from that

date the financial incentives benefits apply.

This has not stopped the disbursement of grants from the enterprise zone. On the 30 factory units already available, 55 have been "occupied" and others are the subject of negotiation. The anticipated "out" of the zone is predicted to be some time next month.

One ambitious project worthy of note is the Cadcam development. The Cadcam association (computer aided design - computer aided manufacturing) formed two years ago from companies and institutions interested in computer education and manufacturing, plans to establish a £2m complex in the Middlesbrough enterprise zone. A £10m investment fund is proposed to help new, high technology companies grow round the centre and these will provide much needed jobs. After a study undertaken with the help of a £60,000 grant from Cleveland County Council, a plan has been produced which estimates that 5,000 to 8,000 new jobs can

be created within 12 years of the start of the development. Finance is being sought from commercial sources, from the Government and the EEC. It is hoped that the Cadcam centre will be built by 1985 and will provide a whole range of services including sharing equipment, evaluating new industrial projects, training new staff, consulting on finance, accounting and management services and leasing computer terminals and work stations.

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Civic Centre, Hartlepool
Telephone 0428 86522

An oil boost

ENGINEERING

The advent of North Sea gas and oil gave new life to dozens of companies in Cleveland generally and Teesside in particular. Oil and gas rigs had to be built and with them all the modules, decks and topside packages contributing to the new offshore industry. Two companies, Redpath Dorman Long and Cleveland Bridge and Engineering, pre-eminent in structural and mechanical engineering, soon found their place in the offshore industry.

In April 1982, RDL was acquired from the British Steel Corporation by the Trafalgar House Group, merged with Cleveland Bridge to form Cleveland Redpath Engineering Holdings. This in turn produced two units, Cleveland Redpath Offshore and Cleveland Redpath Engineering. The offshore division (CRP) has a turnover of £100m and a workforce of about 2,000. It is divided into Cleveland Offshore, with one of Europe's best undercover module construction plants at Port Clarence, and Redpath Offshore at Lintorpe Dinsdale. Both yards are in the Middlesbrough area.

Trafalgar House invested £6m at the Port Clarence yard and at the end of last month Mr Nigel Broadhead, the chairman, announced a similar investment in the Lintorpe Dinsdale yard. Cleveland Redpath Offshore now claims to have the finest all-round capability for the design and construction of modules decks.

Backing up its activities of the two module building yards is another company, Cleveland Redpath Fabrications, at nearby Stockton. It specializes in tubular fabrications, Cleveland Pipework Services, yet another subsidiary at Stockton, concen-

Continued on page 17

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ITM Achievements in Engineering



The offload of one of four 180m long side spans weighing 1000 tonnes for the River Foyle Road Bridge. ITM were responsible for the marine transportation and offload at site of both the side and centre spans.



ITM have been actively engaged in the nuclear power station construction programme. The company has provided turnkey packages for the movement of liner roofs and gas baffles for both Heysham and Torness Advanced Gas Reactor Stations.

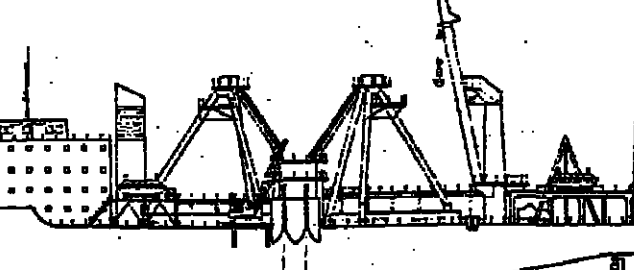


ITM's crane barge, ITM Mariner, at Britoil's Beatrice B satellite platform. ITM Mariner's crane is rated at 200 tonne capacity and the vessel has accommodation for 96 persons.



The heaviest structure ever moved on wheels, using a 1088 wheeled modular hydraulic trailer. ITM loaded out this 3143 tonne integrated deck section for Britoil's Beatrice B platform.

The ITM Ventura, the most advanced cable laying vessel in the world. ITM Ventura's first contract will be for the C.E.G.B. to lay the British cables for the 2,000 MW direct current link across the English Channel. Numerous innovations have made the ITM Ventura the most sophisticated construction support vessel available.



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PORTS

A flood tide for Teesside

The performance of the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, which not only made a profit in the last financial year but looks set fair for even better results this year, is doubly welcome in a depressed region like the north-east of England.

The port authority made a pre-tax profit of £3.15m. in 1982, nearly £1.5m more than in 1981, and recorded a slight increase in tonnage handled 35.382m tonnes compared with the previous 35.246m tonnes.

The good news does not stop there. In the first six months of 1983 the two ports, Tees and Hartlepool, made a surplus of more than £4m and handled 17.5m tonnes. Moreover, Tees Dock which has made a loss for many years is now in the black, having registered a small cumulative profit of £150,000 for the first six months. Hartlepool Dock, which invariably does well, has £200,000 on the credit side of the ledger, despite a fall in income from local industrial users of the Tees.

The port authority's chief executive, Mr John Tholen, feels confident enough to predict a final profit "comfortably in excess" of the 1982 figure. The half yearly profit is £1m higher than at the same time in 1982.

Tees and Hartlepool is Britain's third largest port authority in terms of tonnage and about the third in terms of profitability, after Associated British Ports and Felixstowe. Last month Mr John Peart, the new chairman of the port authority announced that nearly £1m will be spent on Hartlepool

Docks this year, and said even more substantial sums would have to be invested to keep them up to date. The current programme includes a £600,000 extension to one of the storage sheds.

A third car terminal recently completed, will, with improvements to the two existing terminals, account for £150,000. A further £150,000 has been earmarked for forklift trucks, cranes and small cranes. Last year £800,000 was spent on a new shed and a roll-on/roll-off berth.

Tees Dock has always presented a financial problem. Its balance sheet showed a regular loss of £2m until last year when the deficit was reduced to £1.7m. The cumulative losses amounted to £14m.

In 1980 Middlesbrough Dock was closed, resulting in a savings of £800,000 a year, which amount was pumped into the Tees Dock operation to improve facilities. The fight for viability was helped by the elimination of overmanning through a steady reduction in the number of dockworkers and other staff. A new productivity agreement with the dock labour force was reached, the effect of which was to increase flexibility and to free more men to handle ships. A wider mix of business through the dock has also helped.

Most of the shedding of labour has been achieved through natural wastage, but last year about 100 men took advantage of a voluntary severance scheme which provides for dockworkers to leave

their jobs with handsome redundancy payments.

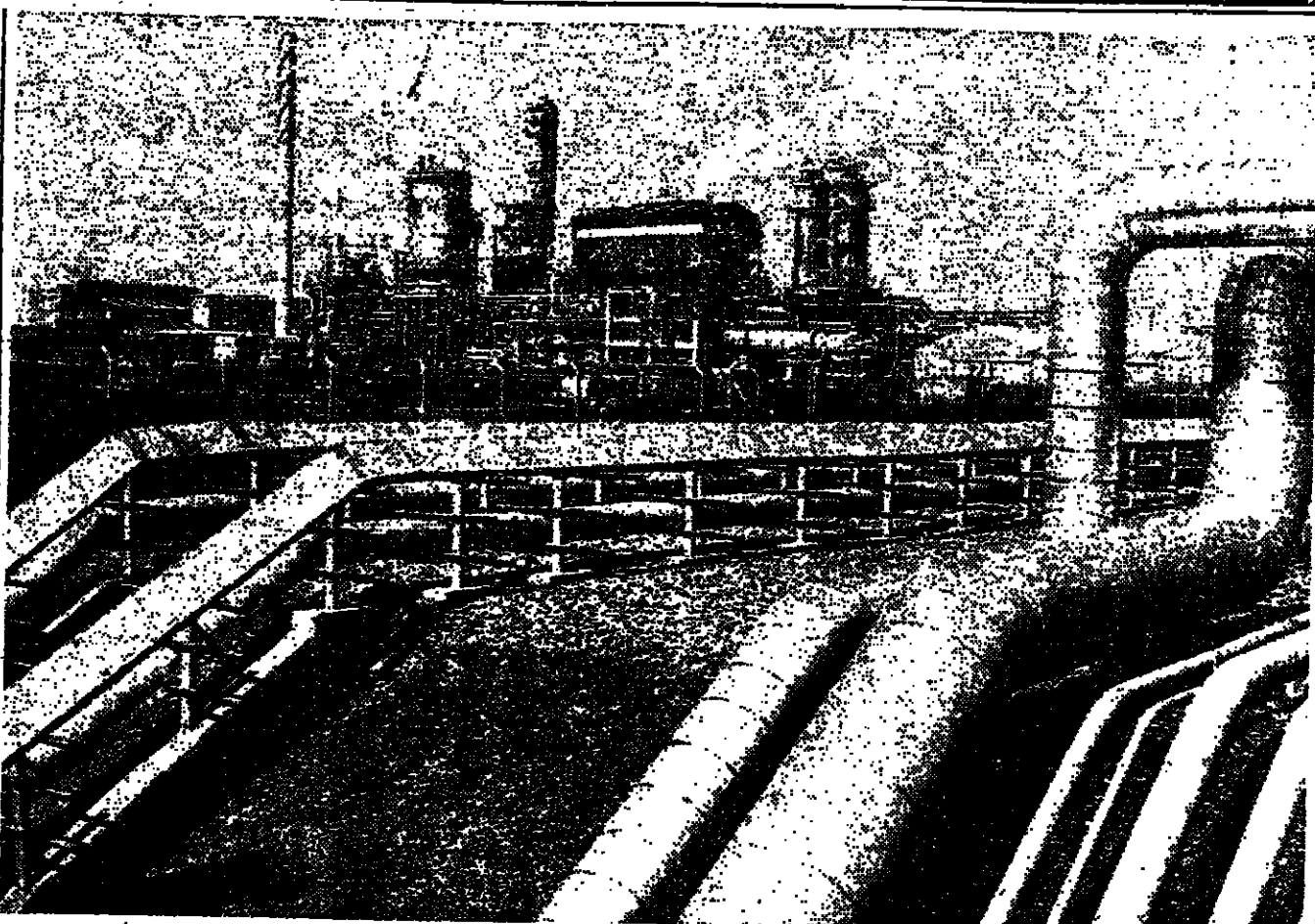
The total labour force employed by the port authority now stands at about 1,150, including administrative workers about half its size when it was set up in 1966 as a public trust to supersede the old Tees Conservancy Commissioners in 1967.

The two docks, Tees and Hartlepool, serve the needs of the oil, chemical, marine construction and steel industries of Teesside but the authority is constantly aware of the need to attract new users.

Six new shipping lines were persuaded to try out Tees Dock last year and they found the service so satisfactory that they became regular users. Another four lines look like becoming valued customers.

While the ports are striving to obtain diversification, they are aware of their dependence on local industrial users such as Shell, ICI, British Steel and Phillips.

All things considered, the ports seem to be on the climb towards prosperity. Mr Peart, however, sounds a warning. "For the long-term, I must point out that Hartlepool has absorbed over £2m more in capital investment than it has generated in profit. It is therefore essential for Hartlepool to achieve a large positive cash flow during the next six to seven years - the more so, as replacement and renewals running to several million pounds will be necessary by the end of the decade to keep the inner docks operational."



ICI's £90m acid plant at Wilton, Teesside

CHEMICALS

Prosperity and the big employer

Despite losing more than 3,000 jobs in the last two years, ICI remains Cleveland's biggest employer with 15,000 people on the books at Wilton, which is home of the company's petrochemicals and plastics division, and at Billingham on the North bank, headquarters of the agricultural division.

That the prosperity of the county is inextricably bound up in the fortunes of ICI can be seen when it is realized that almost £2,000m has been invested in the two sites and the company's annual rate bill alone is more than £14m. The county holds the biggest concentration of ICI's UK production capacity and when it is understood that last year world-wide sales of ICI products amounted to £7,358m the

importance of Cleveland is put into perspective.

The Wilton site produces key raw materials for synthetic fibres, plastics, resins and detergents. In chemicals it manufactures olefins, alcohols, aromatics and intermediates for nylon and polyester fibres and film. A joint venture at Wilton between ICI and BP produced the giant cracker with a capacity of 650,000 tonnes a year ethylene and 350,000 tonnes a year propylene. Its main feedstock is naphtha but it can also crack large quantities of propane and butane. Ethylene from the cracker supplies ICI factories in the North-West via a trans-Pennine pipeline.

Billingham produces vast tonnages of fertilizers. It is the biggest single production site of ammonia in the UK and the largest manufacturing complex for carbon dioxide. Capacity is 600,000 tonnes a year some of which is being used as feedstock in the production of high protein animal feedstuffs for West Europe's pig, poultry and calf breeders.

Teesside has been developing as a chemicals centre since the 1920s. The Billingham site, bought from the Government in 1919 by Brunner Mond, first started producing synthetic ammonia for the production of the fertilizer, sulphate of ammonia, in 1923.

In common with many other industries, chemicals has been hit by recession and, as in most cases, the principal problem is worldwide over-capacity. Officials at ICI freely admit: "In the petrochemicals and plastics business, it has been a battle for survival over the past four years." At Wilton there are three ethylene plants and for the past year only one has been operating. There is an even chance the other two will never function again. Only completely modern plants with the latest technology and its attendant economies are the ones that can produce the right product at the right price. So, to survive, plants have been closed and manpower has been drastically reduced. Over the past three years a total of more than £200m losses have been recorded in plastics and petrochemicals.

In April 1981 ICI merged petrochemicals and plastics to form a new division. Since then a number of important steps have been taken to reshape the company's UK bulk polymer business to help recover profitability. The most significant was the acquisition by ICI of BP Chemicals' PVC business and the acquisition by BP of ICI's low density polythene business. This produced urgently needed rationalization in the bulk polymer industry and left ICI with an improved competitive base in its PVC business in which it has significant technological feedstock and marketing strengths. The BP acquisition, ICI's No. 5 plant at Wilton, is being operated by ICI on behalf of BP Chemicals.

Towards the end of last year exchange rates improved and at the beginning of this year there was a significant reduction in oil prices. ICI officials are hoping to hope that these may be the first signs of an economic change for the better. With reduced losses in the first half of the year, the general feeling is that the ICI petrochemicals and plastics division is starting the long haul back to recovery.

Lifting the doom STEEL

Like the tides that hammer the North east coast, the fortunes of the steel industry, which basically means the British Steel Corporation in this part of the world - ebb and flow. If the peaks and troughs could be forecast they could plan for it. In Cleveland however, British Steel is celebrating new work for two mills thought totally doomed, and at the same time forecasting a bleak winter.

Three years ago, British Steel employed some 18,000 people on Teesside. It now employs 7,500 and still has the same capacity of about 70,000 tonnes a week. Capacity and production present a large gap and at the end of last year only 40,000 tonnes of liquid steel was being produced per week. Earlier this year things picked up and by June, BSC in Cleveland was averaging 65,000 tonnes a week. It was not to last long and a BSC spokesman said: "We look like being down to about 52,000 tonnes a week and are facing a bleak winter. Lack of demand in the home market, some products limited by quota restrictions, keen price competition in the export market and a continuation of restrictions in the United States, all contribute to our problems."

The overall picture is more encouraging, with the odd bright spot, such as Hartlepool. Not long ago the BSC's 44 inches pipe mill ran out of orders. The mill closed down, but for a small maintenance crew, and the men took redundancy payments on the understanding that they would return to work if new contracts were obtained. Nobody had hopes until the Shell Fulmar Field contract was obtained and the pipe mill reopened. The Hartlepool plate mill that produced plate for the pipe mill found itself in the same situation and so both mills which had been closed for about six months opened up in early August and are now producing plates and pipes.

The Shell contract looks like producing about six months work and everybody at British Steel is on the look out for more contracts a similar nature.

Typical of the problems is the Redcar pellet plant, now closed. "We can import pellets cheaper than we can make them" said an official. More encouragingly, the Redcar coke ovens, taken out of commission 18 months ago for rebuilding will be back in operation next year.

Technology creates new jobs

Two new companies whose operations rely on new technology, have just been set up in Cleveland. Eyetech Security Print at the Duke's Way industrial estate, Thornaby, specializes in the high-speed printing by computer and laser processes of what are termed "individually unique" documents. Isocon has been located in the Hartlepool enterprise zone, to manufacture optoelectronics and fibre optic components for the military and telecommunications markets.

Initially Eyetech will employ six people but plans to extend staff to 17 within three years. It is a subsidiary of Norton Opax PLC, and its laser printer is capable of printing information

directly on to plain paper at up to 71,400 characters per second. Mr Alan Redhouse, marketing director, says this means that the machine will individually address and print a single sheet letter of the type used by companies for direct mail projects, at the rate of 10,000 less than half an hour.

Government grants

The Isocon venture has been organized by the Newcastle regional office of the British Technology Group, a government-backed body which initially underwrote the project, though it is now being financed by private investors.

The factory will cost £1.5m and plant and equipment a further £1.5m. The company, which will receive the usual government grants, was eagerly wooed by South Wales. Ninety per cent of production will be exported aimed at the export

market. The company will employ 100 people initially and plans to increase the workforce to 500 in five years.

A spokesman said that the Department of Industry, Hartlepool Enterprise Agency, Venturelink, a private agency, and BSC industry all played a key role in putting the project together in three months.

The company's new factory which is being built by English Industrial Estates, will take a year to complete, meanwhile operations are being conducted at temporary premises in Hartlepool. Turnover is expected to reach £6.5m in three years.

Oil gives a boost

Continued from page 16

trates on sophisticated pipework and fittings.

When Mr Brookes announced the latest £6m investment, he described it as "an act of faith" on the part of the Trafalgar House board. Other areas of investment include £27m at the recently opened structural steelworks of Cleveland Redpath Engineering at Darlington in County Durham.

ITM (Offshore) of Middlesbrough has just won a £25m contract to provide a new floating port for Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands.

The flexi-port comprises six of the company's 300ft by 90ft barges, linked in pairs with four legged pile structures called dolphins securing them. The barges will carry warehouse accommodation and the front three will provide a 1,000ft quay front in deep water, which will be used by deep draft vessels carrying equipment and materials for the development of the island. ITM is particularly pleased because the flexi-port was originally designed and developed for the Niger Delta for a contract that was later cancelled. It has five months to complete the Falkland job.

ITM (International Transport Management) is a typical spin-off from the offshore oil and gas industry. It was formed by three friends with experience of North Sea work. Alf Duffield, ITM chairman, now aged 45, and partners John Wilson and Brian Pearson both in their mid-thirties, "had" become ex-

perts in the complicated business of moving modules and other structures to oil rigs. Wilson and Pearson were both trained in heavy engineering and Duffield was an accountant. They acquired barges and multi-wheeled transporters and quickly gained a reputation for moving massive loads on land or sea.

In May this year the company bought Normanby Wharf, a site of 37 acres on the South bank of the Tees. It has extended to fabrication work and is now building structures for oil and gas rigs.

The company employs 250 people and has a turnover of about £40m. It has offices in the Middle East, Brazil and Nigeria. With Seatrans of Norway it formed ITM-Seatrans to enhance the heavy lifting-transportation services available to the Scandinavian offshore and construction industries.

Apart from the British company's fleet of flat top barges, it has an anchor handling-tug-supply vessel, the ITM Seabarer, and a vast crane vessel, ITM Mariner, which can lift 200 tonnes loads. A multi-purpose offshore support vessel with a primary role as a cable-layer, the ITM Venturer is now being built. This will lay the cable for the Central Electricity Generating Board to connect the British and French national grids in Spring next year.

The company has given a helping hand to history, too. When the 437-year-old Tudor warship Mary Rose had to be transferred to a restoration barge, ITM Offshore did the delicate job with a 48 axled trailer.

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Investment and Finance

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Anthony HiltonCity Office
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(STOCK EXCHANGES)

Friday's change and week's close

FT Index: 678.5 down 31.3

FT 100: 81.10 up 1.07

FT All Share: 427.65 up 16.36

Bargains: 20,917

Dataseam USM Leaders Index: 94.21 up 3.72

New York Dow Jones Average: (close) 1263.52 up 8.63

Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,323.53 up 238.75

Hongkong: 738.51 up 4.46

Amsterdam: 151.3 up 0.9

Sydney: AO Index: 692.4 down 17.1

Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 973.40 up 5.0

Brussels: General Index: 127.61 down 1.43

Paris: CAC Index: 141.1 up 0.2

Zurich: SKA General Index: 283.2 up 1.4

(CURRENCIES)

Friday's change and week's close

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.5000 down 0.0015

Index 83.6 up 0.3

DM 3.93 up 0.08

FF 1.9950 up 0.1225

Yen 349.50 up 1.5

Gold: 126.4 up 1.3

DM 2.6200 up 0.054

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.5060 down 0.0032

Dollar/DM 2.5973 up 0.0321

INTERNATIONAL

ECU \$0.57572 down 0.005738

SDR \$0.706748 down 0.006381

(INTEREST RATES)

Domestic rates:

Bank base rates 9

Finance houses base rate 10

Discount market loans week fixed 9

3 month interbank 9 1/8%

Euro-currency rates:

3 month dollar 9 1/8%

3 month DM 5 1/4%

3 month Fr 14 1/4%

US rates:

Bank prime rate 11.00

Fed funds 9 1/4%

Treasury long bond 103 1/2%

ECB Fixed Rate Scheme: IV

Export Finance: 8 1/2%

Average reference rate for interest period September 7 to October 4, 1983 inclusive: 9.719 per cent.

(BOARD MEETINGS)

TODAY - Interim: Erith, Seaford, Gifford, F. Sumner, Thomas Nationwide Transport (quarterly), Western Bros.

TOMORROW - Interim: Davis and Newman Holdings, Edin. Finance and Sons, Harrison and Crofield, Hunting Petroleum Services, Istock Johnson, Walter Lawrence, London and Northern Group, More O'Ferrall, Whittington International Holdings, Finance, Brooks Bond Group, Castle (GB), Minerals Oil and Resources Shares Fund, Paterson Zochonis.

(WEDNESDAY)

Interim: Bankers' Investment Trust, British Home Stores, City of Oxford Investment Trust, Duport, John Pollock Hefo, Hawker Siddeley, Jassal, Toyne and Gillett, Marshall's Universal, Securities Trust of Scotland, Smith St Aubyn, Sun Life Assurance, Telephone, Remedia, TR North America Investment Trust, Fleetstar, Elco, Grosvenor Group, Kalamazoo, RP Martin, Medinister, Quest Automation, Television South West Holdings.

(THURSDAY)

Interim: Anchor Chemical, East Rand Gold and Uranium, Foster Bros, General Scottish Trust, Gerard and National, G.T. Asle (Sterling) Fund, London Atlantic Investment Trust, Scottish Mortgage and Trust, Seaford, South Diffusion, St Group, Finkel, Wm. Low, Welton Gold Mining Co.

(FRIDAY)

Interim: Blumel Bros., William Cook and Sons (Sheffield), Midsummer Trust, Uniflex Holdings, Finkel, Goodman Bros., Lowland Investment, North Sea Assets.

(ANNUAL MEETINGS)

TOMORROW - Ricardo Consulting Engineers, St Ermin's Hotel, Caxton Street, SW1 (noon).

WEDNESDAY - Claridge-Tyler, Brynmeyn, Bridgend, Mid. Glamorgan (noon).

THURSDAY - George Blair, Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne (2.00); Copper-Nell, Corporate Headquarters, Nells Road, Bold, St Helens, Merseyside (2.30); Estate Property Investments Co. Ltd, 27/28 Lower Lane, EC2 (noon); Maynes Publishing Group, The Crest Suite, Manor Hotel, Yeovil (noon); Telefusion, Cornaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC2 (noon).

FRIDAY - Breville Europe, Angel Hotel, High Street, Guildford (11.00); Debenhams Services, 27/28 Lower Lane, EC2 (11.30); Lead Investors, Regent Suite, Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, W1 (noon); Notton, Berrysdale Hotel, Bagecroft Road, Ascot (11.30).

(MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS)

Minority shareholders who fail to accept a take over bid which gives a bidding company control but not outright ownership, may be allowed a higher offer six months later, instead of 12 months as at present.

China approves of link with US currency

Pegging of Hongkong dollar expected to restore stability to colony

By Graham Searjeant

The weekend decision of the Hongkong Government to peg the Hongkong dollar to the US dollar, at HK\$7.80, is expected to give a powerful psychological boost to stability in the colony as the new system begins to operate in exchange markets this morning.

The move has been widely welcomed in Hongkong and has been officially approved by China. It was taken to halt the run on the currency brought about by uncertainty over the colony's future after China said it planned to take control when Britain's lease expired in 1997.

The New China News Agency yesterday quoted an official of the Hongkong branch of the Bank of China as saying that "taking these measures is better than the so-called non-intervention attitude. Hongkong authorities should be held responsible for stabilizing the Hongkong dollar."

The Bank of England, which provided technical assistance in working out the new fixed exchange rate system, which follows nine years of a floating rate, is also thought to believe it is workable.

The Hongkong dollar, which depreciated from under HK\$7 to the US dollar in May to around HK\$3.80 a month ago, as talks over the colony's future

turned sour, had recovered sharply in expectation of a currency stabilization plan. In Saturday morning trading, it reached HK\$8.08 compared with HK\$8.25 on Thursday, (Friday was a local holiday).

Sir John Breckinridge, the colony's financial secretary, said that the fixed rate was based on prevailing market rates.

The new rate will be protected by the Government's exchange fund. This holds foreign currency backing for the colony's privately issued supply of bank notes, which started the year at HK\$12.6 billion.

In future, if the two note-issuing banks, the Hongkong &

Shanghai and the Chartered, want to issue more notes, they must, as backing, pay foreign currency into the exchange fund at the new fixed dollar rate in exchange for additional "certificates of indebitness."

The fall in the local currency was caused largely by a flight of local money rather than trade or international speculation. If cash is now withdrawn to convert into foreign currency, the banks will receive foreign currency from the exchange fund at the fixed rate, causing an immediate loss of liquidity and a countervailing rise in domestic interest rates.

In a move to encourage

holdings of Hongkong currency, the Government has abolished its withholding tax on Hongkong dollar deposits. A similar levy on foreign currency deposits was withdrawn earlier to protect the colony's status as an international financial centre, giving local people a tax incentive to hold their bank deposits in foreign currency.

Sir John admitted that there may be some upward pressure on interest rates in the short term but thought that "once the stability of the exchange rate becomes evident and accepted, interest rates should fall below present levels."

Tozer to sell timber subsidiary for £3m

By Our Financial Staff

Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn, the international trading group supported by its bankers, has agreed to sell its forest products subsidiary, Price & Pierce, to Sears World Trade (SWT).

SWT is part of Sears Roebuck, the United States stores and mail order conglomerate. It is paying Tozer £3.3m on completion and up to £750,000 over the next 18 months providing various conditions are met.

The sale is the latest in a string of disposals Tozer has made in recent years to help cut losses and reduce borrowings which stand at nearly £90m. The group turned round from losses of £135m pre-tax to a £3.94m profit in the first half of this year. Tozer's 86 bankers have agreed to continue support until May, providing a breathing space to work out a financial reconstruction.

Sears is expected to end up paying a little over net worth for Price & Pierce. The 170-year-old timber and pulp broker had net assets of £4.9m at end of last

year but this included £1.17m owed by the Mexican private sector which Tozer is having to keep and expects to receive in March.

Tozer will also receive Price & Pierce's net profits for the nine months to September 30.

Sir Montague Prichard, the chairman of Tozer, said there had been several interested buyers and a proposal for a management buyout but Sears had made the best offer. Management was happy with the deal.

Price & Pierce made profits of about £3m in 1977 but has suffered with the timber industry. Profits fell from about £600,000 to £62,000 last year although better is expected.

The insurance activities of Price & Pierce are not included in the deal but Sir Montague said talks were well advanced on selling the insurance side which might raise about £1m.

Discussion on Tozer's capital reconstruction is expected to gather pace.

Midland Bank awarded double 'A' rating in US

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank, which last week paved the way for it to raise loan capital in the United States, has been assigned an "AA" rating by Standard and Poor, the influential American debt-rating agency.

The double "A" rating is in line with most of the big United States banks which were demoted from triple "A" last year. But Midland is rated less highly than two of its British competitors, Barclays and National Westminster, which have already raised capital in the United States.

Midland signalled its plans to raise finance in the American bond market for the first time when it filed a \$400m (£267m) shelf registration last week with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Standard and Poor said the preliminary rating was based on Midland's sound financial position. The bank was adequately capitalised, although asset quality - mainly at the 57 per cent-owned Californian subsidiary, Crocker National - had deteriorated somewhat, the agency said.

Midland's prospectus filed with the SEC reveals that it has lent \$1 billion to Brazil, \$900m to Mexico and \$500m to Argentina. This \$2.4 billion exposure to Latin America's main debtors represents 5.1 per cent of the group's assets.

It compares with total shareholders' funds of £1.675 billion, but developments in these countries to have an adverse impact on its financial condition.

Philippines delay paying debts

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Capital flight and severe balance of payments problems have forced the Philippines to seek a moratorium on loan repayments. The Government has asked international bankers for a 90-day delay on repayment of loan principal falling due in the next three months.

Manufacturers Hanover, the big United States bank which is chairing a newly formed advisory committee of 10 banks, said that the committee had agreed to the request and would be reviewing the

country's 1983-84 financial plan.

With foreign debts put at \$18 billion (£12 billion), of which \$4.5 billion is short-term, the Philippines is believed to be the biggest borrower in Asia after Indonesia and South Korea.

It is the first big Asian country to find itself unable to meet debt repayments.

Mounting political tensions since the assassination of the opposition leader, Mr Benigno Aquino, in August have led to a heavy outflow of capital from

the country. The rapid worsening in the balance of payments has drained the country's hard currency reserves.

● New disagreements have emerged within Argentina's Government over negotiations to reschedule part of the country's estimate \$40 billion foreign debt.

A senior Air Force source says renegotiation of state company debts should be postponed until after the general elections on October 30.

US hotel chain expanding into Britain

Ramada seeking rooms to grow

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

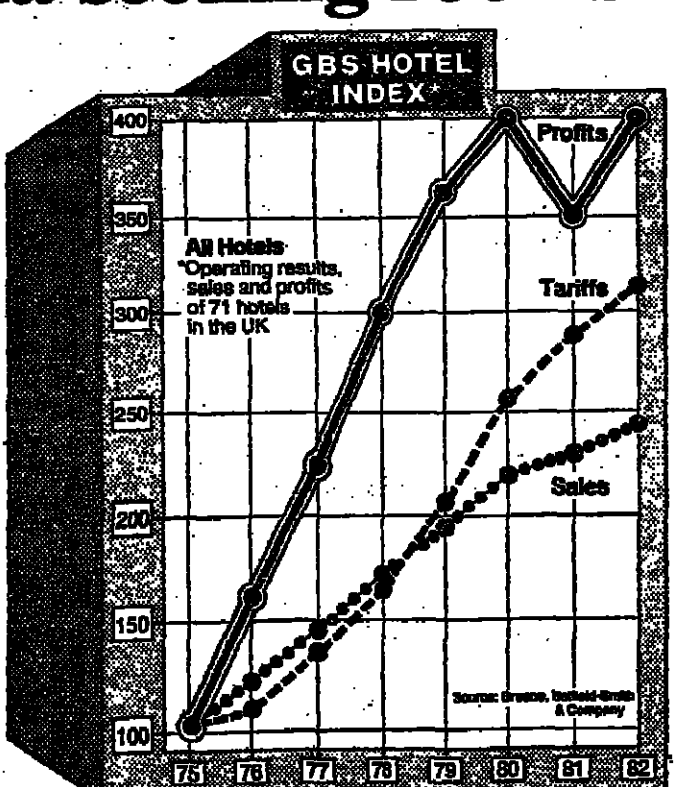
Arozo-based Ramada, the world's third largest hotel chain, will soon launch a hotels development and financing operation in Britain which is expected initially to raise more than £55m, enough for up to five Ramada hotels to open in key centres in rapid succession.

The operation will minimise Ramada's capital investment while maximising fund raising to build a United Kingdom chain managed by Ramada aimed at what it has identified as an expanding sector. Elegant hotel standards with prices at the upper end of the medium-price bracket is the kernel of Ramada's strategy.

A new hotel in Edinburgh and conversion of an existing new hotel building in Manchester are likely to be among the first schemes off the ground. A central London hotel is also being sought.

Ramada, whose only British presence has been its marketing of the Gloucester in Kensington in a deal with the Rank Organisation, last week opened a new Ramada in the centre of Reading. Ramada has a 17 per cent stake in this venture with one main backer.

And Ramada is close to



mostly local to the project.

Mr Bill Gran, Ramada's executive vice-president (international), said: "This will increase our purchasing muscle by 12 to 13 times. It means our first three new ventures should run more or less in parallel."

Ramada had mistakenly missed earlier chances of moving into Britain, he added. He saw a British chain as a crucial bridge as Ramada builds up its United States-European customer traffic. Ramada has eight hotels in Europe out of 620 world wide.

In the United States Ramada has found more hotel users are trading up from "no frills" establishments while luxury hotel users are becoming more price sensitive. Ramada's aim is to profit from both these trends. Mr Gran believes that as Britain pulls out of the recession similar trends will become evident here.

Other American-based international chains are already hurrying to increase their presence in Britain, led by Holiday Inn and Sheraton.

Sales and operating profits of British hotels are still rising according to the latest trends survey from Greene, Befield-Smith, the specialist consultants on the hotel industry.

City Editor's Comment

Welcome for Tebbit made in Japan

Little, surely, could please Mr Norman Tebbit more in his new job as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry than the hints from government sources in Tokyo that Japan is about to launch a new package of economic measures. These are planned to encourage imports, head off further increases in the current account surplus and ease trade tensions.

Such moves would be neatly timed to provide a more positive background to the high-level visit of Japanese officials and businessmen to Britain and the continent next month, and to defuse what might otherwise be some ritually tough talking by the rapidly-briefed Mr Tebbit.

The package will be worked out on Friday, at an economic affairs council headed by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, and Mr Haruo Matsuoka, governor of the Bank of Japan.

From our point of view, the Japanese trade surplus is the big target. The private Nomura Research Institute calculates that the current account surplus could be about \$28 billion this year, rising to \$46 billion by 1986. But Japan is equally worried by unemployment. This is now at a peak, though, in international terms, is minuscule at 2.8 per cent.

The measures will surely include some stimulus to home consumption. But this will not be enough. Mr Nakasone faces, in any case, business worries over his budget deficit and Mr Matsuoka sees the rising yen as the main solution to trade strains. He will not, therefore, want to cut already low interest rates far.

Instead, Japan is likely to boost the yen by swallowing its prejudices and opening its financial markets further, reluctantly permitting the yen to play a greater role as a world trading and reserve currency.

Mr Tebbit will be more interested in the moves to cut tariffs and to encourage imports by getting more British goods into Japanese shops.

He may reflect, though he will no doubt push the thought to the back of his mind, that what the Japanese are now doing under international pressure contrasts oddly with our own behaviour when we have had proportionately similar trade surpluses and rather more unemployed.

The stamp of success

The Stock Exchange has understandably taken the opportunity to link its commission-cutting reforms with pleas for the abolition of the 2 per cent stamp duty on purchasing shares.

If costs of dealing need to be cut for the exchange to compete internationally, runs the argument, why keep London expensive by keeping the stamp duty?

There is some sense in this, even though a concession allows overseas holders to pay only 1 per cent stamp. But the tax will not stop the London Stock Exchange becoming much more competitive than it is today and stamp duties are far too good at raising revenue cheaply, to throw away.

Stamp duties, chiefly on property and securities, are expected to raise almost £1 billion this year. That is nearly as much as capital gains tax and capital transfer tax combined, with much less expense and much less distortion of people's behaviour.

There is a case for spreading the load even further, for instance, by charging a lower rate on shares but including all dealings in Government securities that are now exempt.

Indeed, there is even a case for extending stamp duties into new growth areas such as credit card transactions.

Arms plants in study for selloff

By Our Financial Staff

The Government has asked Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, to conduct an investigation into the Royal Ordnance Factories, and make recommendations on whether they should be privatised.

Latest profit figures for the factories, which make arms and munitions for the Ministry of Defence, showed that they earned £68m before tax. It has been widely assumed that they would command a price of about £300m if they were sold to the public.

Officially, Lazard has been asked to advise on matters concerning the transition to Companies Act status. But it was understood last night that the brief would be wide ranging, and would discuss alternatives to full privatisation, the possibility of sale to the private sector or some of all of the factories, and the combining of other interests - like the warship yards.

Brazil pay agreement in balance

From Patrick Knight, Sao Paulo

The conflict over wages between Brazil's government and Congress is set to reach a climax this week. A presidential decree which has been in operation since mid-July, setting all wage rises at 80 per cent of inflation, expires on October 26, and a Bill proposing to make the decree law is being laid before Congress today.

The IMF and the banks see wage cutting measures as essential if Brazil is to reduce its soaring inflation rate. Loans are dependent upon the measures being implemented.

The Bill has to be voted on by the House within the next 10 days, if otherwise becomes law automatically. But Opposition parties plan to force a vote. The Government's PDS Social Democratic Party cannot count on a majority to pass the Bill.

The planning minister, Senator Delmi Netto, is anxious that a virtually identical decree, should be announced by the president to replace the present one, and that this process should be repeated until inflation falls to an acceptable level, hoped to be in 1985.

However, several other ministers want to avoid this drastic and certainly undemocratic course.

Formulas whereby the lowest paid could receive 100 per cent of the inflation rate are now being examined. The problem here is that more than half of all Brazilian wage earners get less than the minimum wage, about £110, the suggested cut-off point. To allow this massive number of people to maintain their purchasing power, that of

the higher paid would have to be cut substantially more.

The big problem is that time is running out fast. The board of the IMF meets early in November with the hope of ratifying a new agreement with Brazil. Without the agreement efforts to persuade bankers to renew existing loans and make massive new loans to Brazil will come to nothing. But IMF ratification depends on a wages law being firmly in place.

About 450 British and European banks will meet Brazil's central bank governor, in London tomorrow to discuss the \$12bn loan and rescheduling package being requested of banks. They are being asked to provide \$6.5bn of new loans and reschedule \$5.5bn of 1984 repayments over nine years.



A traveller finds contentment on his journey to Japan.

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JAPAN AIR LINES

MOTOR RACING

RACING

Cauthen calmer of Newmarket's riders in a storm

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

In what were probably the most difficult conditions witnessed at Newmarket, where the "blasted heath" is more vulnerable to gales than most places, filly maintained their autumn supremacy on Saturday when Cormorant Wood and Flame of Tara finished first and second in the Dubai Champion Stakes; albeit after Tolomeo, the runner-up, had been disqualified and relegated to fourth.

Only a fortnight earlier filly had dominated the finish of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris. On Saturday the only members of the supposedly weaker sex shone even though they both appeared to have a lot to find on form.

By winning Saturday's epic as well as the Sun Chariot Stakes a fortnight earlier Cormorant Wood emulated Time Charter, who brought off the same double last year. Like Time Charter she will remain training as a four-year-old. When hundreds of thousands of pounds are constantly being paid for horses mostly with origins in the United States it is nice to be able to report a big catch to an English owner-bred operation on quite modest lines.

By Home Guard and out of a mare by Super Sam, Cormorant Wood would not have set the sale ring alight had she been sold earlier in her life by Bobby McAlpine. In fact Mr McAlpine even offered a half share in his filly recently to his friend of old, Robert Sangster and was politely turned down.

The normally lucky Mr Sangster will consider that to be one of his few mistakes because



Nosing ahead: Brian Rouse drives Bajan Sunshine past Popsi's Joy in Saturday's Cesarewitch (Photograph: Ed Byrne)

that it was hard to interpret the film and Tolomeo and Dettori deserved the benefit of the doubt. Cauthen's small consolation was a victory with Free Guy in the Bird Cage Nursery late in the afternoon. Tolomeo will get his opportunity to reply next year.

After Bajan Sunshine had won the Tote Cesarewitch the unsavory enclosure was charged with emotion, with hugs and kisses for the winner and

tears welling into the eyes of the successful trainer, Rod Simpson. When asked whether this result meant a lot to him, Simpson replied: "That's the understatement of the year."

The result could easily be his lifetime and mean the difference between business as normal and extinction. Simpson has to be out of his present stables at Epsom by the end of the month and still has nowhere to go. At least Saturday's triumph

showed that he can do the job with the right horse.

His chance came when Paul Green, who bought Bajan Sunshine only last Wednesday with the intention of sending him to Martin Tate to be trained for hurdling, decided to leave him with Simpson until after the Cesarewitch on his assurance from Simpson that he would win the Cesarewitch. How right he was.

good winner for that much under-rated jockey Brian Rouse, who has enjoyed an unforgettable season. For a second or two in the last furlong it looked as though Bajan Sunshine might be worn down by that great old warhorse Popsi's Joy, who had won the race before. But Rouse had kept something up his sleeve in case of just such a situation. When he played his trump Bajan Sunshine did the rest.

Piquet wins a rich crop of groceries in South Africa

From Ray Kennedy, Kyalami

If some super car salesman were to offer a slightly-used Brabham BMW, one owner, carefully driven, he would not, for once, be all that far from the truth.

Nelson Piquet, of Brazil, certainly does not drive like a little old lady toddling off to the shops but the formula one world driver's championship in the South African Grand Prix on Saturday was a textbook example of dogged single-mindedness.

Piquet set off at Kyalami in the final race of the 1983 championship determined to bring home the groceries. There was hardly a moment when he looked like failing in his quest.

He led for 60 of the 77 laps until he allowed his Italian colleague, Riccardo Patrese, to take over the lead. And with just over two laps before the finish he slipped back into third place behind the Alfa Romeo of Andre De Cesaris.

He needed only a fourth place to win the driver's title after both Alain Prost, who was two points ahead of him until Saturday, and Rene Arnoux were forced out of the race by mechanical failure.

Piquet, who also won the driver's championship in 1981, said: "Everything went the way we wanted it. The car and the pit teams worked with excellent speed and precision."

The slickness of the Brabham team's pit stops was a major factor in the victory. Piquet came in for tyres and refuelling on lap 29 and was on his way again in 9.2 sec - itself a record performance. Later Patrese was reshod, refuelled and despatched in barely 10 sec.

By contrast, the luckless Niki Lauda, of Austria, who drove magnificently in the Marlboro McLaren Tag Turbo, was held up at the pits for 23 seconds when a wheel jammed.

Lauda, starting from 12th position on the grid, had pulled up to third position when his pit stop came on lap 35. He was in eighth position by the time he got back on the track but with seven laps left overtook the second-placed Piquet who had

been tweaking his Turbo-Boosters to hold off the Austrian while Patrese built up his lead.

The McLaren's Tag Turbo finally gave up the battle on lap 72. Prost's hopes of becoming the first Frenchman to win the drivers title came to an end on the forty-second lap after a 45sec pit stop two laps earlier. Clearly unhappy, he said the Renault lost power badly after the long pit stop. Rene Arnoux's chances of victory - which depended on both Piquet and Prost failing to score points - ended when his Ferrari expired in the eleventh lap.

Fourth-placed - David Warwick, of Britain, who escaped from a 120 mph crash during unofficial practice, also drove superbly and demonstrated that the Candy Toleman has become reliable enough to be reckoned with next season while the retiring world champion, Kiki Rosberg, of Finland, was more than satisfied with his fifth place in his first outing with the Honda-powered Saudi Williams.

RESULTS: 1. P. Piquet (Brabham BMW, 1st 35min 25.70sec (average speed 222.83 kph). 2. R. Patrese (Brabham BMW, 2nd 35min 26.00sec (222.83 kph). 3. A. De Cesaris (Alfa Romeo, 3rd 35min 26.10sec (222.83 kph). 4. N. Piquet (Brabham BMW, 4th 35min 26.20sec (222.83 kph). 5. D. Warwick (Candy Toleman, 5th 35min 26.30sec (222.83 kph). 6. R. Arnoux (Renault, 6th 35min 26.40sec (222.83 kph). 7. K. Rosberg (Williams, 7th 35min 26.50sec (222.83 kph). 8. S. Prost (Ferrari, 8th 35min 26.60sec (222.83 kph). 9. D. Warwick (Candy Toleman, 9th 35min 26.70sec (222.83 kph). 10. L. Lauda (Ferrari, 10th 35min 26.80sec (222.83 kph). 11. D. Warwick (Candy Toleman, 11th 35min 26.90sec (222.83 kph). 12. A. Prost (Ferrari, 12th 35min 27.00sec (222.83 kph). 13. R. Arnoux (Renault, 13th 35min 27.10sec (222.83 kph). 14. K. Rosberg (Williams, 14th 35min 27.20sec (222.83 kph). 15. S. Prost (Ferrari, 15th 35min 27.30sec (222.83 kph). 16. D. Warwick (Candy Toleman, 16th 35min 27.40sec (222.83 kph). 17. L. 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Educational

The Leverhulme Trust

RESEARCH AWARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR 1984

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Awards of up to £5,100 to senior persons pursuing their own investigations (but not for higher degrees or equivalent).
Awards tenable for 3 months to 2 years. No salary of enquiry excluded. Applicants must have been educated in the U.K. or other part of the Commonwealth and be normally resident in the U.K.
Application form F2A. Closing date Wednesday, 16th November 1983.

EMERITUS FELLOWSHIPS

Awards of up to £3,800 a year for 1 or 2 years to persons who have recently reached or are about to reach retirement age to enable them to complete research. Persons with an established record of research who have retired early may also be considered.
Applications must have held academic positions in universities or other institutions of similar status in the U.K.
Application form F6A. Closing date Thursday, 1st December 1983.

Applications on the appropriate form must be in the hands of the Secretary not later than the date specified and cannot be considered if arriving after that date.

Application forms and further information from The Secretary, Research Awards Advisory Committee, The Leverhulme Trust, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3DF. Telephone 01-422 6952.

Christ's Hospital Horsham

The following appointments will be made for September 1984:

- (a) History: a historian to teach throughout the School.
- (b) Mathematics: a mathematician to teach throughout the School.
- (c) Modern Languages: (i) a modern linguist to teach French throughout the School (ii) a modern linguist to teach Russian and French throughout the School.

Applications for all these positions in writing, with full curriculum vitae and the names of two referees to the Head Master's Secretary, Christ's Hospital, Horsham, Sussex RH13 7LS from whom further details of the School and post may be obtained.

ST DUNSTON'S EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

ST DUNSTON'S COLLEGE
Stanstead Road, Catford, London SE6 4TY

BURSAR

Applications are invited from suitably experienced candidates for the non-resident post of BURSAR of St Dunstan's College, an independent day school for 350 boys. Salary will be related to the Inner London Senior Teachers' Scale. Further particulars available on request.

Apply before 28th October 1983, with details of age, present appointment, qualifications and experience, giving the names and addresses of three referees.

The Clerk to the Governors
Telephone No 01 690 1274

THE HABERDASHERS' ASKE'S SCHOOL, ELSTREE, HERTS.

OPEN DAY
FOR INTERESTED PARENTS AND SONS

The school will be open between 2.00 and 4.00pm on SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19th 1983 so that parents who are interested in their sons entering the school may have the opportunity of meeting the Headmaster and members of staff, and seeing the facilities available.

Admission is by examination at the age of 7 and 13 years. Common Entrance places are available at 13 and Sixth Form places at 16 for those with GCSE qualifications.

Assisted places under the new Government scheme will be available to boys entering the Main School at age 11.

One Bursary will be available for a boy entering the Sixth Form at age 16 who is the son of a Clergyman in the Church of England.

Further information from the Admissions Secretary, Haberdashers' Aske's School, Butterfly Lane, Elstree, Barnet, Herts WD6 3AF. Tel: 0207 4325.

FORRES SCHOOL

SWANAGE, Dorset. 1919 OF 1920. 1921 OF 1922. 1923 OF 1924. 1925 OF 1926. 1927 OF 1928. 1929 OF 1930. 1931 OF 1932. 1933 OF 1934. 1935 OF 1936. 1937 OF 1938. 1939 OF 1940. 1941 OF 1942. 1943 OF 1944. 1945 OF 1946. 1947 OF 1948. 1949 OF 1950. 1951 OF 1952. 1953 OF 1954. 1955 OF 1956. 1957 OF 1958. 1959 OF 1960. 1961 OF 1962. 1963 OF 1964. 1965 OF 1966. 1967 OF 1968. 1969 OF 1970. 1971 OF 1972. 1973 OF 1974. 1975 OF 1976. 1977 OF 1978. 1979 OF 1980. 1981 OF 1982. 1983 OF 1984. 1985 OF 1986. 1987 OF 1988. 1989 OF 1990. 1991 OF 1992. 1993 OF 1994. 1995 OF 1996. 1997 OF 1998. 1999 OF 1999. 2000 OF 2000. 2001 OF 2001. 2002 OF 2002. 2003 OF 2003. 2004 OF 2004. 2005 OF 2005. 2006 OF 2006. 2007 OF 2007. 2008 OF 2008. 2009 OF 2009. 2010 OF 2010. 2011 OF 2011. 2012 OF 2012. 2013 OF 2013. 2014 OF 2014. 2015 OF 2015. 2016 OF 2016. 2017 OF 2017. 2018 OF 2018. 2019 OF 2019. 2020 OF 2020. 2021 OF 2021. 2022 OF 2022. 2023 OF 2023. 2024 OF 2024. 2025 OF 2025. 2026 OF 2026. 2027 OF 2027. 2028 OF 2028. 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